

SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

Nome Mini-Convention Center  
Nome, Alaska  
March 6, 2017  
10:00 a.m.

Members Present:

Louis Green, Chair  
Brandon Ahmasuk  
Fred Eningowuk  
Theodore Katcheak  
Ronald Kirk  
Leland Oyoumick  
Charles Saccheus  
Elmer Seetot

Regional Council Coordinator - Karen Deatherage

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## 1 P R O C E E D I N G S

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(Nome, Alaska - 3/6/2017)

4

5

(On record)

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CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'd like to call this meeting to order about 10:19, I think, is what the clock says. I'm going to ask for a roll call.

9

10

11

Karen, can you do that for us, please.

12

13

14

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is Karen Deatherage, Office of Subsistence Management. I'll do roll call.

15

16

17

Theodore Katcheak.

18

19

MR. KATCHEAK: Here.

20

21

MS. DEATHERAGE: Brandon Ahmasuk.

22

23

MR. AHMASUK: Present.

24

25

MS. DEATHERAGE: Louis Green.

26

27

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Here.

28

29

MS. DEATHERAGE: Tom Gray.

30

31

(No response)

32

33

MS. DEATHERAGE: Leland Oyoumick.

34

35

MR. OYOUMICK: Yeah, right here.

36

37

MS. DEATHERAGE: Fred Eningowuk.

38

39

(No response)

40

41

MS. DEATHERAGE: Elmer Seetot, Jr.

42

43

MR. SEETOT: Here.

44

45

MS. DEATHERAGE: Charles Saccheus.

46

47

MR. SACCHEUS: Here.

48

49

MS. DEATHERAGE: Ronald Kirk.

50

1 (No response)

2

3

4

MS. DEATHERAGE: Ron, are you on the  
phone?

5

6

7

REPORTER: He has to unmute himself to  
talk.

8

9

MS. DEATHERAGE: Ron, if you're on the  
phone, unmute your phone so that you can respond to the  
roll call.

10

11

12

13

(No response)

14

15

16

MS. DEATHERAGE: We may have lost him,  
so we can check back later. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17

18

19

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen, for  
that. It looks like we have a quorum, of course.

20

21

22

MR. KIRK: Ronald Kirk from Stebbins.

23

24

25

CHAIRMAN GREEN: There you are, Ron.

26

27

MR. KIRK: Yeah, I'm here, Mr.  
Chairman.

28

29

30

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Back to  
mute. So we have seven as a count here for the  
Council. So I'll move on to welcome and introductions.  
I'd like to start out with the Council here and I'll go  
from Ted to his left around the table.

31

32

33

MR. KATCHEAK: Theodore Katcheak from  
Stebbins. I've been on the Advisory Council for a  
number of years. I don't recall how long.

34

35

36

37

MR. SACCHEUS: Charles Saccheus from  
Elim, Alaska.

38

39

40

MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Jr., Brevig  
Mission.

41

42

43

MR. OYOUMICK: Leland Oyoumick,  
Unalakleet, Alaska.

44

45

46

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Louis Green, Nome.

47

48

MR. AHMASUK: Brandon Ahmasuk, Nome.

49

50

1 It's my first Council meeting was a month ago.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Training.

4

5 MR. AHMASUK: Yeah, the training. I  
6 went through that. A pleasure to be here.

7

8 MS. DEATHERAGE: My name is Karen  
9 Deatherage. I'm the Council Coordinator for the Seward  
10 Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council from  
11 the Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 It's great to have everybody here.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Other Staff.

18

19 MR. MCKEE: Chris McKee, Wildlife  
20 Division Chief, OSM.

21

22 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Megan Klosterman, new  
23 wildlife biologist with OSM.

24

25 MR. KIRK: Ronald Kirk, board member by  
26 conference.

27

28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. I was  
29 just going to call for the phone. Is there anybody  
30 else out there.

31

32 MR. SEPPI: This is Bruce Seppi with  
33 BLM, Anchorage Field Office.

34

35 MR. REAM: Good morning. This is  
36 Joshua Ream, anthropologist for the Office of  
37 Subsistence Management.

38

39 MR. SHARP: This is Dan Sharp with  
40 Bureau of Land Management in Anchorage.

41

42 MS. KLEIN: This is Jill Klein with  
43 Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Anchorage.

44

45 MS. LAVINE: Hello. This is Robbin  
46 LaVine with the Office of Subsistence Management here  
47 in Anchorage.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody else on the

50

1 phone.

2

3 MR. SUMMERS: Clarence Summers,  
4 National Park Service, Anchorage.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody else on the  
7 phone.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Back to the room.  
12 State your name, please.

13

14 MS. KATCHEAK: Good morning. My name  
15 is Grakanay. My American name is Marie Katcheak. I am  
16 a subsistence users and elder. Also I would like to  
17 say good morning to everyone online and may you have a  
18 prosperous meeting here.

19

20 Thank you so much for letting me speak.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Is there  
23 anybody in the audience who wants to state their name  
24 for the record.

25

26 MS. WOODY: Hi, I'm Carol Ann Woody  
27 with the National Park Service at the Regional Office  
28 in Anchorage.

29

30 MR. DUNKER: Hi, this is Bill Dunker  
31 with Fish and Game based here in Nome.

32

33 MR. FAGERSTROM: Jack Fagerstrom from  
34 Golovin.

35

36 MR. SACLAMARA: John Saclamara from  
37 Nome.

38

39 DR. CHEN: Good morning, Council  
40 Members. My name is Glenn Chen. I'm with the Bureau  
41 of Indian Affairs.

42

43 MS. BRAEM: Good morning. This is  
44 Nikki Braem with the National Park Service here in  
45 Nome.

46

47 MR. ADKISSON: Good morning. Ken  
48 Adkisson, Subsistence Program Manager for Bering Land  
49 Bridge National Preserve, Nome.

50

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That seems to be  
2 everybody in the room. Did anybody join on the phone,  
3 I heard something.

4  
5 (No response)

6  
7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. I'm  
8 going to move forward on the agenda. Which brings us  
9 to item number 4, review and adopt the agenda. We have  
10 some amendments to include on this agenda. I'm going  
11 to ask for a motion on the agenda as written and a  
12 second.

13  
14 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. I move to  
15 adopt the agenda.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Elmer, thank you. Is  
18 there a second.

19  
20 MR. KIRK: Second, Mr. Chair.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. Now  
23 we need to add the amendments. Karen, could you kind  
24 of state that so people are on the same page.

25  
26 Thanks.

27  
28 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
29 We have three changes to the agenda. The first one is  
30 under old business to remove the revisions to the Draft  
31 MOU, the State of Alaska. There won't be a report on  
32 that. That document is still in process.

33  
34 Under new business we will be adding a  
35 U.S. Fish and Wildlife rule sign-on letter. This rule  
36 has to do with the non-subsistence take of wildlife on  
37 Alaska Wildlife Refuges.

38  
39 The third item that we're adding is  
40 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Native  
41 American and Alaska Native Policies. That presentation  
42 will be over the phone today.

43  
44 Another special note is that the  
45 reports on Wildlife Special Action 17-01 will be held  
46 tomorrow to allow for the public and any other members  
47 that want to speak tonight at the hearing on Wildlife  
48 Special Action from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. here in this  
49 building.

50

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen.

4 Having heard that, I'd ask for a motion and a second on  
5 the amendments.

6

7 MR. KATCHEAK: So moved, Mr. Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is there a second.

10

11 MR. SEETOT: Second.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. To  
14 vote on the amendment first, all those in favor of the  
15 amendment say aye.

16

17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against same  
20 sign.

21

22 (No opposing votes)

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Amendment passes.  
25 We'll move on to the main agenda here and ask for a  
26 motion and a second.

27

28 MR. SEETOT: So moved.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Elmer. Is there a  
31 second.

32

33 MR. OYOUMICK: Second.

34

35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Leland.  
36 All those in favor of the motion to adopt the agenda as  
37 amended say aye.

38

39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those opposed same  
42 sign.

43

44 (No opposing votes)

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Motion passes. The  
47 agenda is in place with the amendments. That brings us  
48 to item number 5 review and approve previous meeting  
49 minutes. I'd ask for a motion to approve. Those of  
50

1 you here do you want to review it for a minute or are  
2 you ready to go?

3  
4 If you're ready, I'd ask for a first  
5 and a second on that.

6  
7 (Pause)

8  
9 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. Move to  
10 approve November 1-2, 2016 meeting minutes.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. Is  
13 there a second.

14  
15 MR. AHMASUK: I'll second.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Brandon.

18  
19 All those in favor of the motion say  
20 aye.

21  
22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against same  
25 sign.

26  
27 (No opposing votes)

28  
29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Motion passes. So now  
30 we're going to move into item number 6, which is  
31 election of officers. At this time we'll ask Karen  
32 Deatherage to take over. The first seat up is the  
33 Chair and as now I'm the Chair. So now is your turn,  
34 Karen.

35  
36 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
37 Again, I'm Karen Deatherage with the Office of  
38 Subsistence Management. I'm going to open the floor  
39 for any nominations for the Chair position for the  
40 Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

41  
42 Thank you.

43  
44 MR. OYOUNICK: Nominate Louis Green.  
45 He seems to know what he's doing. I've never done  
46 this, so he knows how to do it more than I do.

47  
48 MR. SEETOT: I second the motion.

49  
50



1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. Is there a  
2 motion to close the nominations.

3  
4 MR. SEETOT: I so move.

5  
6 MR. KIRK: So moved. I move.

7  
8 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. The  
9 nominations are now closed. I'll now call for the vote.  
10 All those in favor of Louis Green as Chair of the  
11 Seward Peninsula Council please say yeah.

12  
13 IN UNISON: Yes.

14  
15 MS. DEATHERAGE: All those opposed.

16  
17 (No opposing votes)

18  
19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. Louis  
20 Green has been nominated Chair of the Seward Peninsula  
21 Council. I will now turn it over to your new same  
22 Chair for the remaining officers.

23  
24 Thank you.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It's like trading in  
27 an old pair of shoes for an old pair of new shoes.  
28 Thank you for your vote of confidence the rest of the  
29 Council. So we move on to the Vice Chair. I'm going  
30 to ask for nominations for Vice Chair at this time.

31  
32 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. I nominate  
33 Fred Eningowuk.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. That's a  
36 nomination for Fred Eningowuk. Are there any other  
37 nominations at this time.

38  
39 (No comments)

40  
41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. I'd ask  
42 for a vote on this or a vote of unanimous consent, I  
43 suppose. Hearing no objections at this time, I'd say  
44 that Mr. Fred is our.....

45  
46 MS. DEATHERAGE: All those in favor.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those in favor --  
49 yeah, I guess we could. All those in favor.

50

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Sounds unanimous to  
4 me. All those against same sign.

5

6 (No opposing votes)

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Fred  
9 Eningowuk is our Vice Chair. We'll move on to the  
10 nomination for Secretary. The floor is open.

11

12 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. I nominate  
13 Brandon Ahmasuk.

14

15 MR. OYOUNICK: I second that.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Are there any other  
18 nominations.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Nominations are  
23 closed. I'll ask for a vote. All those in favor of  
24 the nomination say aye.

25

26 IN UNISON: Aye.

27

28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those opposed same  
29 sign.

30

31 (No opposing votes)

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Brandon  
34 Ahmasuk is our new Secretary. Thank you.

35

36 This brings us to item number 7 on the  
37 agenda, which is Council Member reports. We'll go  
38 around the table. Anything to report from your village  
39 or area there. We'll start with Mr. Katcheak.

40

41 MR. KATCHEAK: I don't have much, but  
42 one of the things I observed over the last few years  
43 the moose had increased. So in this meeting I was  
44 going to propose to extend that season from the end of  
45 February to end of March.

46

47 So otherwise we've been -- we live on  
48 an island, so we're kind of stuck from October until  
49 January. The canal ice is unusually thin in those

50

1 times and so we limit our hunts only  
2 when the crossing is safe to go. We've been doing  
3 subsidence hunting less than what we used to do.  
4

5 MR. SACCHEUS: We had quite a fall this  
6 fall and our freeze-up was late and makes it kind of  
7 hard to go up on the crossing Quinhagak River and also  
8 the Kwik River where we usually go out there and go  
9 hunt when they first freeze up and go  
10 hunt caribou and our caribou season was kind of late.  
11 We had a lot of rain until the last part of November  
12 and that's when it finally freeze up and the hunters  
13 that hunt caribou finally went out and they could cross  
14 the rivers with their snowmachines and their four-  
15 wheelers and they finally got caribou.  
16

17 Most of the caribou they caught were  
18 wild reindeer and right now I think the caribou are  
19 kind of on a decline and hopefully they'll -- maybe  
20 next year or another year from that I hope the  
21 population start to come up and make everybody happy  
22 because a lot of time we have a tough time when those  
23 caribou don't come down to the Seward Peninsula.  
24

25 Anyway, our fishing season was good  
26 last summer and we had a real good season. But I think  
27 global warming is taking effect on our way of hunting  
28 and our berry picking and all that. Up to date we're  
29 finally getting normal. We get all that snow and  
30 that's when you can go all over the country with  
31 snowmachines. Other than that we enjoy the snow.  
32

33 Thank you.  
34

35 MR. SEETOT: Seward Peninsula caribou  
36 reports. We were getting caribou at end of December at  
37 about 10 miles north of Brevig Mission, but the  
38 reindeer herd were mixing with the caribou. The  
39 reindeer herder tried to get them in and around Brevig,  
40 but due to blizzard conditions during the first week  
41 they had them there the caribou took them back up  
42 north, so they're about 65 miles in and around the bend  
43 of American River. I think that's the closest way we  
44 can get caribou.  
45

46 The Bering Sea was open up to January.  
47 Our Port Clarence Bay froze the last part of November.  
48 Fishing wasn't very good due to storms that we've been  
49 getting in and around our area.  
50

1 Other than that our wolf population is  
2 with the caribou herd in and around Cape Espenberg and  
3 Serpentine River area.

4  
5 That's all I have.

6  
7 Thank you.

8  
9 MR. OYOUNICK: Hi, I'm new from  
10 Unalakleet and I don't have much in the way of  
11 reporting. I do like to bring to mind that there's a  
12 letter in the latest Nugget about fish radioactivity  
13 tested designed to find nothing. I just want to know  
14 if that's a fact. And I'd like also for them to look  
15 into the same thing as far as game.

16  
17 In Unalakleet the weather is the same  
18 as these folks because we're close by. We don't get  
19 caribou unless they get caribou first.

20  
21 So thank you.

22  
23 MR. AHMASUK: Hi, this is Brandon. I  
24 think the only concern I heard for here in Nome was the  
25 caribou didn't come quite as close as other years.  
26 Other than that everything else seemed to be pretty  
27 good. We got quite a bit of snow this year.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ron, are you online?

30  
31 MR. KIRK: Yeah, I'm online. I'd like  
32 to elaborate on what Ted said. Our moose population is  
33 growing and we're getting more wolves in Píkmiktalik  
34 area. The ice is a problem. We had a late freeze-up.  
35 Our ice isn't that thick. I just came from traveling  
36 60 miles and I had to go up on the coastline in some  
37 places because the ice was too thin.

38  
39 Other than that we had a great summer  
40 of fishing. But, yeah, I'd like to increase the moose  
41 season because our ice conditions is hard to cross a  
42 couple of rivers.

43  
44 That's all I have.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. Thank  
47 you, Council. I haven't really got much to add. I had  
48 a somewhat up and down fishing season last summer.  
49 Mechanical issues, weather, timing of putting away my  
50

1 fish. It was kind of tough time. The moose season,  
2 another one of those things where you don't see your  
3 moose in your freezer you're a little disappointed.  
4 It's a rare item for me and my family.

5  
6 Anyway, that's all I really have to  
7 report at this time. So I guess we can move on in the  
8 agenda. That's my Chair's report at this time.

9  
10 We'll move on to the public and tribal  
11 comment on non-agenda items under item 8. I'd ask  
12 anybody to report on board consultation with tribes.

13  
14 (No comments)

15  
16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody on the phone.

17  
18 (No comments)

19  
20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. ANCSA  
21 corporations in the room.

22  
23 (No comments)

24  
25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Nothing in the room.  
26 On the phone.

27  
28 (No comments)

29  
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That moves us to  
31 agency comments. We have Fish and Game. Excuse me.

32  
33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
34 No, we're not in agency reports yet. This is just a  
35 call that we do every day to allow for public and  
36 tribal and ANCSA corporations to speak to any non-  
37 agenda items.

38  
39 Thank you.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for  
42 clarifying that. I need to make a note on here. So  
43 hearing nothing from the public or tribal comments,  
44 that carries us into item number 9, old business.

45  
46 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
47 There are currently no items under old business unless  
48 any Council Member would like to bring something up.

49  
50

1 Thanks.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody on the  
4 Council, Ron on the phone.

5

6 MR. KIRK: No, Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Anybody in  
9 the room.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. I don't  
14 have anything. That will move us on to new business.  
15 I'm going to call on Karen for discussion on new  
16 business.

17

18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
19 Members of the Council. This is an item that we have  
20 added to the agenda on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
21 Service's Rule on Non-Subsistence Take of Wildlife.

22

23 It looks like the coffee is ready. Do  
24 you want to take a five-minute break so folks could get  
25 coffee and warm up. All right, I'll be back.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Do it.

28

29 (Off record)

30

31 (On record)

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Everybody is back at  
34 the table and in their chairs. I'll call the meeting  
35 back to order and turn the floor over to Karen again  
36 under new business.

37

38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
39 We'll start this over again.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Karen, any time you  
42 want to recess the meeting just let us know.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 MS. DEATHERAGE: No problem. Let me  
47 swallow my food.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: So we have a draft  
2 letter. For those of you -- it's not in the meeting  
3 book. It's on the back table for the public if you'd  
4 like to get a copy. All the Council Members received a  
5 copy of this in your supplemental materials if you'd  
6 like to refer to it.

7  
8 This letter was generated by the  
9 Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
10 and the intent of the letter was to ask the Federal  
11 Subsistence Board to ask the Secretary of the Interior  
12 to withdraw the rule that was passed several months ago  
13 entitled the Non-Subsistence Take of Wildlife on  
14 National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska.

15  
16 This Council did put in written  
17 comments for that rule. Largely the rule dealt with  
18 means and methods for taking predators on National  
19 Wildlife Service lands in Alaska. Wolves, bears and  
20 coyotes. The rule was passed and is currently in  
21 regulation.

22  
23 This letter asks the Secretary of the  
24 Interior to withdraw that rule. The Council at this  
25 time has the option of signing on as a Council to this  
26 letter.

27  
28 I want to let you know that the letter  
29 has been heavily vetted by our attorneys because, as  
30 Council Members and Federal employees, we are not  
31 allowed to lobby Congress. Individually you can, but  
32 as a group you cannot. So this letter has been written  
33 in a manner to protect you as Council members from  
34 trying to lobby Congress in any way to withdraw the  
35 rule. So it's specifically going to the Secretary,  
36 which you are allowed to do.

37  
38 So if you want to review the letter,  
39 it's very simple. It's just asking the Secretary to  
40 withdraw the rule and the Secretary does have the  
41 option to do that.

42  
43 Thank you.

44  
45 I'm open to any questions you might  
46 have.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Just for the record  
49 again could you read what the rule is.

50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: The Federal regulation  
2 is the non-subsistence take of wildlife and public  
3 participation in closure procedures on National  
4 Wildlife Refuges in Alaska. Again, it deals with  
5 multiple means and methods of taking bears and wolves  
6 and coyotes on Federal lands, on National Wildlife  
7 Refuge lands specifically in Alaska.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So you're saying  
10 basically it's an encouragement for non-residents?

11  
12 I'm not following it right.

13  
14 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'll give you a little  
15 background. The ruling was actually in response to the  
16 State allowing for means and methods that were very  
17 effective in removing predators from National Wildlife  
18 Refuge lands. Baiting sows and cubs, using traps and  
19 taking wolf pups in dens and things like that.

20  
21 The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has  
22 guiding principles and policies where the use of those  
23 means and methods were in violation of specifically the  
24 guiding principle and policy of theirs to maintain a  
25 diversity of wildlife on Federal National Wildlife  
26 Refuges. So they put this rule into place to prevent  
27 removing predators to augment prey populations or  
28 disturbing the natural diversity of wildlife  
29 populations on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska.

30  
31 So this is the reason why this rule was  
32 passed last year. Because there was a conflict with  
33 what the State wanted to do on Federal lands and it was  
34 in conflict with the mandates of the Federal management  
35 for National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska according to  
36 Fish and Wildlife Service.

37  
38 The Park Service by the way also passed  
39 a similar rule.

40  
41 This Council did put forth written  
42 comments and those comments largely talked about --  
43 they were mixed. Some Council Members believed that  
44 they had opportunities to take bears and wolves and  
45 were satisfied with that. Other Council Members  
46 thought that these methods and means might enhance  
47 their opportunity to take wolves and bears.

48  
49 It is a non-subsistence take, so  
50



1 basically it is using a sport hunting license to engage  
2 in these activities. This does not affect subsistence  
3 take of these predators. It is only affecting the non-  
4 subsistence take under a sport hunting license.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So I'm getting that  
7 it's a -- the rule in there in place right now engages  
8 or disengages. I'm not following it.

9  
10 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
11 The rule right now prohibits the use of those means and  
12 methods. So this letter is asking the Secretary for  
13 the Interior to lift those prohibitions.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

16  
17 MR. OYOUNICK: Well, if it's going to  
18 cut down on predatory animals and big game will start  
19 thriving, it's good, but how do you draw the line.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You're saying remove  
22 the rule to allow it to take place on Federal lands.  
23 I'm just trying to get it clear so everybody is on the  
24 same page here.

25  
26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Let me be clear too.  
27 Again, it's a sign-on letter asking, as you said, for  
28 withdrawal of the rule, but none of these means and  
29 methods are currently being used. So there's a  
30 challenge or an issue that they would be proposed and  
31 used under State regs. So that was the concern.

32  
33 Thank you.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So, in other words,  
36 removing the rule allows for that to take place on  
37 Federal lands.

38  
39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. Yes, it  
40 does.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There we go. Now it's  
43 clear. Everybody else on the same page as me?

44  
45 (Nods affirmatively)

46  
47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So do we want  
48 to vote on this. A couple of nods around the table.  
49 I'm going to ask for a motion for the approval to sign  
50

1 on the letter with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Is  
2 there a first motion.

3  
4 MR. KIRK: I'll move, Mr. Chair. Ron  
5 Kirk.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron.  
8 There's a first. Is there a second to approve.

9  
10 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. Second the  
11 motion.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those in favor of  
14 the motion say aye.

15  
16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against same  
19 sign.

20  
21 (No opposing votes)

22  
23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Motion  
24 passes to include the letter to sign on.

25  
26 Karen.

27  
28 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
29 That concludes my presentation.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks for the  
32 clarification, Karen.

33  
34 MS. DEATHERAGE: It's a complicated  
35 issue and I appreciate the opportunity. I apologize if  
36 I created any confusion.

37  
38 Thank you.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So that moves us on  
41 under new business to approving the fiscal year 2016  
42 annual report. I have a short bit to go through there.  
43 Anybody else have any comments on it. Page 32. Take a  
44 minute to review.

45  
46 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair, what page is  
47 that?

48  
49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Page 32, Ted.

50

1 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair. This is Ron.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Ron.

4  
5 MR. KIRK: Under new business, right  
6 after the Fish and Wildlife did we do Native American  
7 policies?

8  
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, that will come up  
10 later on in the day.

11  
12 MR. KIRK: Okay.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Karen's got us on hold  
15 on that.

16  
17 (Pause)

18  
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: At this time I'd like  
20 to ask any Council Members if there's anything they'd  
21 like to add or comment on.

22  
23 (No comments)

24  
25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is there a motion to  
26 approve.

27  
28 (No comments)

29  
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'll give you another  
31 minute or so.

32  
33 MR. OYOUNICK: When they monitor these  
34 chinook salmon, do they always have to handle them or  
35 corral them to observe them? I mean several people at  
36 my home they don't like that weir and that kind of  
37 thing that they use to -- I don't know if it's  
38 detrimental to the chinook and their run. I'm just  
39 curious if they are.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I don't know the exact  
42 extent to what it is that they do when they handle them  
43 if they study them. I know about the weir, yeah.

44  
45 MR. OYOUNICK: They got a cage that  
46 they let the fish go in and then they take it out of  
47 there. I think that bothers them more than it helps  
48 them.

49  
50

1                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, some of us have  
2 suspected that weirs are basically like a fence and  
3 holds back the runs. I've seen that on the Pilgrim  
4 with the sockeye. It is a concern by people. I don't  
5 know what extent they're speaking to on this. Is there  
6 anybody in the room that can.....

7  
8                   MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. I have a  
9 thought here. When I observe the fish counts in  
10 Pikmiktalik or Nunavulnuk, they have some of that  
11 plastic rubber on the one bank of the river to the  
12 other bank and it didn't seem to bother unless they  
13 were caged or walled, weir, to where you have to handle  
14 them by hand. But when I was looking at -- observing  
15 the fish counts, they just look at how many fish went  
16 through the river using that bright-colored rubber,  
17 looked like rubber, extended from one bank to another.  
18 It didn't seem to bother the fish at that time.

19  
20                   Thank you.

21  
22                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ted. We've  
23 got somebody at the microphone that's going to speak to  
24 this.

25  
26                   Thank you, ma'am.

27  
28                   MS. WOODY: I'm Carol Ann Woody. I'm a  
29 fisheries biologist now with the Park Service and I've  
30 worked in fisheries over 30 years. Weirs, if they  
31 aren't run properly, can hold fish back, but they  
32 should be run where fish are allowed to pass through in  
33 a timely manner so they're not wasting the energy they  
34 need for spawning. Especially with chinook and fish  
35 that aren't like sockeye where you can count them from  
36 towers, it's about the only way you can really get  
37 information on them. It's very challenging to get  
38 information on chinook and species like that.

39  
40                   They're starting to do studies where  
41 you put radio tags in them and you can use genetic  
42 markers to study them, but if you're running your weir  
43 properly and you handle the fish carefully, you  
44 shouldn't be really hurting them or causing them too  
45 much distress.

46  
47                   If you do see that, you should probably  
48 report it because most biologists should be very well  
49 trained in handling animals properly.

50

1 MR. OYOUMICK: Do they still use sonar  
2 counters in that effort?

3  
4 MS. WOODY: In a lot of glacial systems  
5 they do use sonar and they use something called DIDSON,  
6 which is another way of imaging the fish as they go by  
7 where they can actually see the different sizes.

8  
9 But they're also starting to do  
10 something called mark/recapture with radio telemetry.  
11 They're also using genetics for a way of marking fish  
12 and then getting an estimate of the numbers. But  
13 chinook, as you know, we're having trouble with our  
14 chinooks and our populations have been declining, so  
15 there's just not very many of them and trying to get  
16 our hands on them to actually get data has been  
17 extremely difficult and challenging.

18  
19 MR. OYOUMICK: Do you know if the sonar  
20 has an effect on deterring the fish from entering the  
21 river as opposed to going.....

22  
23 MS. WOODY: It should not have an  
24 effect. It should not have an effect on the fish  
25 entering its river. Sometimes fish -- if it's not the  
26 right river, because they're using their nose to find  
27 their way home, they're sniffing their way and finding  
28 the right river to get into, so sometimes they change  
29 their mind. They'll go, oh, this isn't the right  
30 river, my home river, so sometimes they'll change their  
31 mind and go into the river that is the correct river.

32  
33 Thank you.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Carol, one more  
36 question.

37  
38 MS. WOODY: Yes.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You spoke to chinook.  
41 Are there any other salmon species in the Pacific that  
42 are having the same issue maybe as the chinook using  
43 their noses?

44  
45 MS. WOODY: They all use their noses.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that.  
48 That's something we suspected a long time ago that if a  
49 salmon is going up above a weir, going through the

50

1 weir, it hasn't got the ability to turn around and go  
2 back down the stream.

3  
4 Thank you for that clarification.

5  
6 MS. WOODY: Yeah, the weir should be  
7 high enough and.....

8  
9 REPORTER: Just come on up.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We've got time.

12  
13 MS. WOODY: Sorry. So generally with a  
14 weir when people are running the weirs, because  
15 sometimes fish do want to get out, whoever is running  
16 the weir should be able to let the fish out too because  
17 you will have fish, oh, this is the wrong river and  
18 they'll want to get out. So whoever runs the weir  
19 should let those fish out too. They should be able to  
20 go up and down.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Would there be data to  
23 go along with that? Would they be reporting that?

24  
25 MS. WOODY: Yes. A good biologist  
26 should do that, yes.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Leland,  
29 that was a great question.

30  
31 Karen. Thank you, Carol.

32  
33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Through the Chair.  
34 We're also having Jennifer Bell, who is with the Alaska  
35 Department of Fish and Game, who is going to be  
36 speaking to the Unalakleet weir. So I think that would  
37 be an excellent question to ask her as well because she  
38 will know hand's on exactly what occurs at that weir.  
39 So she'll be speaking to that at this meeting.

40  
41 Thank you.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks. Brandon.

44  
45 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
46 was going to add to that about Jennifer Bell. She does  
47 have projects right here in Nome where they have the --  
48 I'm not sure if it's the sonar or whatever, but  
49 basically it's a two-part deal where -- I guess the

50

1 terminology is salmon flushing where they enter but  
2 then they leave and go back to whatever river they're  
3 wanting to go to.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks for that,  
6 Brandon. At this time I'll bring it back to the floor  
7 here, item (b) under new business under 10. I'd ask  
8 for a motion to approve the annual report unless  
9 there's any other comments or questions, concerns.

10  
11 Go ahead, Elmer.

12  
13 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. Chinook salmon  
14 on the Agiapuk River, I think they're rebounding from  
15 the last two years anyway up that way. Salmon fallout  
16 discussions were pretty heavy blaming or saying that  
17 False Pass was the culprit 10 to 20 years ago. Still a  
18 big intercept. But if the chinook salmon are going  
19 down, which predator is the main culprit that really  
20 goes after the king salmon? Is it the salmon shark, is  
21 it the sea lions, is it all the marine mammals?

22  
23 Because with ice going out so fast  
24 during the springtime, there is a lot of seals, mixed  
25 seals, that go into Port Clarence Bay before they go on  
26 their spring migration route and that's a lot of food  
27 availability within Port Clarence Bay that keeps the  
28 seals there. Who is the main predator for the chinook  
29 salmon?

30  
31 Because in one of these meetings Mr.  
32 Saccheus talked about beluga consuming about 11 to 15  
33 salmon per day, so that's a big number. Even though we  
34 have a lot of salmon out there, sometimes they're so  
35 concentrated in one area that they kind of wipe out the  
36 species from one area and then leave these other areas  
37 intact.

38  
39 The other thing is our TEK, if we do  
40 argue over these animals or these wildlife resources  
41 that we use, they're not going to be there for you.  
42 That's what we constantly strive to keep our balance  
43 between predators and the wildlife resources that we  
44 use in our area and that has been taught or brought to  
45 our grandchildren that these customs or traditions are  
46 still being given to them so they have a good future  
47 with the wildlife resources.

48  
49 Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer.

2  
3 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What I was going to  
6 say on that chinook, we've got Carol here, but we're  
7 also going to have Jennifer speaking. So that would be  
8 a good question to bring back on the predation.

9  
10 MR. SEETOT: Okay.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It's a good question.  
13 Let's just bring it up later when we have both these  
14 ladies to ask about that kind of information.

15  
16 Ted, you had a comment or concern.

17  
18 MR. KATCHEAK: Yes, I have a comment  
19 I'd like to add to what Elmer said about chinook and  
20 beluga. All these years we live right on the cape and  
21 have belugas coming and then soon as after the spring  
22 they go inside Yukon River Delta and up some of the  
23 rivers in our area. So a lot of the chinook is taken  
24 by belugas too.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ted, Elmer.  
27 Questions of predation we'll be able to ask those when  
28 Jennifer is on with us.

29  
30 Again, I'm asking for a motion to sign  
31 on to this letter.

32  
33 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair, I move.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is there a second.

36  
37 MR. AHMASUK: Mr. Chair, I second.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Brandon.  
40 Those in favor of the motion....

41  
42 MR. SEETOT: Motion for discussion.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, that's fine.

45  
46 MR. SEETOT: Number three, Department  
47 of Fish and Game, fisheries staff, I think we've been  
48 at them for so long because what we consider a conflict  
49 between State and Federal regulations. Nome really

50



1 doesn't have any Federal land and neither does Brevig  
2 in our near vicinity, but we're charged with making  
3 sure regulations and whatever that is passed by Federal  
4 Subsistence Board or by RAC is being carried out.

5  
6 I have taken part in this discussions  
7 where we kind of bash State people because being on the  
8 Federal side of it we, Alaska Native people, we're  
9 under State and Federal jurisdiction for game  
10 regulations and sometimes that's kind of confusing when  
11 they say that, oh, we have to align it with State  
12 regulations or we have to align with Federal  
13 regulations, but I think from my point of view is that  
14 at least in the past bashing State personnel because  
15 they weren't really pursuing the issue very much or  
16 what we thought was that they were just kind of waiting  
17 for something else to happen and that's my opinion.

18  
19 We didn't -- I keep saying we. Our  
20 Native people didn't like what was being published or  
21 being regulated on wildlife  
22 resources and I think that was one of the things that  
23 we see in  
24 any Regional Advisory Council or any other meeting.  
25 The community or people that get us into these  
26 positions they think that we're able to fully comply  
27 with whatever is on the books and I think that's why we  
28 don't see very much public participation.

29  
30 And then also the State of Alaska has  
31 their own rules and regulations, but they apply to  
32 pretty much everyone under the State Constitution. So  
33 I think that was a big difference in how we expect to  
34 see participation from State agencies within our group.

35  
36 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that  
39 comment, Elmer. I think that MOU that's in here that  
40 the Fed and the State is working on might alleviate  
41 some of that. To me, it's been frustrating the  
42 Department hasn't had anybody here as far as fisheries  
43 are concerned in the past. Hopefully that will change  
44 in the near future.

45  
46 I'd like to see everybody on the same  
47 page. That's one of my things about participating in  
48 any of these things. Sitnasuak Native Corporation,  
49 Bering Straits, this Federal RAC. You want to see the  
50

1 main contributors to this region get to the table and  
2 be on the same page in how we go forward because we're  
3 not and we haven't been.

4  
5 Point well taken, Elmer.

6  
7 MS. KATCHEAK: Can I make a comment to  
8 that?

9  
10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You've got to come up  
11 here, please. Thank you, Marie.

12  
13 MS. KATCHEAK: Good morning again.  
14 This is Marie Katcheak. I greatly agree with the  
15 Chairman that everybody should be at the table. All  
16 the Native corporations should be at the table. A lot  
17 of times when we have meetings and you're the only  
18 person chosen for your village to give a report back to  
19 your village, it takes months sometimes for them to get  
20 on the agenda. Maybe they're not calling any meetings  
21 all summer. So, therefore, a lot of the information is  
22 five, six months old by the time they're getting it in  
23 the village if they're having a public meeting for  
24 anybody to put out their concerns.

25  
26 I think a lot of times when things are  
27 being published by both the State and the Federal  
28 government they need to make sure each mailbox in the  
29 whole region gets it. If they can't attend the  
30 meeting, at least they got that information. If the  
31 information is taken home and it's sitting in the box  
32 in the IRA office or in the city office or whatever  
33 place they're coming from, the public is not getting  
34 that information.

35  
36 Then, when the regulations come out,  
37 we're all ah, ah, ah, what happened, what was wrong  
38 with that, you know. So that attitude's got to change.  
39 Everybody needs to be at the table. Everybody that  
40 only has one little piece of dry fish in their freezer  
41 for the winter, they need to be well known what's going  
42 on at these meetings.

43  
44 Thank you.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mrs.  
47 Katcheak. Is there anybody online to make a comment or  
48 have a concern.

49  
50

1 MR. ENINGOWUK: Good morning. This is  
2 Fred Eningowuk. I'm joining the meeting through  
3 teleconference. I'm in Anchorage, so I'm currently  
4 listening in.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Can you repeat that.  
7 I goofed up and had my mic on. I'm sorry.

8  
9 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah, this is Fred  
10 Eningowuk. I wasn't able to make it to the RAC and I'm  
11 joining the meeting through teleconference and I don't  
12 have the meeting material in front of me, so I'll be  
13 listening in and, if need be, comment.

14  
15 Thank you.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Fred, for  
18 calling in. By the way, you're the new Vice Chair.

19  
20 (Laughter)

21  
22 MR. ENINGOWUK: Is that correct?

23  
24 (Laughter)

25  
26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I wouldn't lie to you,  
27 my friend.

28  
29 (Laughter)

30  
31 MR. ENINGOWUK: You probably wouldn't.  
32 If I was voted in to be Vice Chair, I'll gladly accept  
33 that, but if there's somebody else, that's fine.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It was unanimous and  
36 it's too late to change your mind.

37  
38 (Laughter)

39  
40 MR. ENINGOWUK: Okay.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for piping  
43 up there. Glad you're on. Again, to sign on to this  
44 letter, I'm asking for a motion. Did I already have it?  
45 I didn't have anything written down. Who do I have? I  
46 didn't write them down, that's the problem.

47  
48 MR. KATCHEAK: I did.

49  
50

1 REPORTER: And Brandon seconded.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And Brandon. There  
4 you go. That's right.

5  
6 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. I call for  
7 the question.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: The question has been  
10 called. All those in favor for the motion say aye.

11  
12 IN UNISON: Aye.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those again same  
15 sign.

16  
17 (No opposing votes)

18  
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, motion  
20 passes. Annual report. Excuse me, the U.S. Fish and  
21 Wildlife Rule sign-on letter is -- no, wait a minute.

22  
23 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is the annual  
24 report.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I was reading out of  
27 order there. It is the annual report under item (b)  
28 under new business. Sorry. So under item 10, new  
29 business, item (c), we call for Federal wildlife  
30 proposals. Do we have anything?

31  
32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, we do.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: This young lady is  
35 going to come up and enlighten us here. Thank you.

36  
37 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
38 Members of the Council. For the record my name is  
39 Megan Klosterman and I'm a wildlife biologist with the  
40 Office of Subsistence Management.

41  
42 For the wildlife call for proposals  
43 there actually has not been an official call for  
44 Federal wildlife proposals at this time. Due to the  
45 change in Administration, we're not permitted to  
46 publish anything to the Federal Register. However, we  
47 are asking that today the Council discuss and develop  
48 any wildlife proposals that you guys would like to  
49 submit. That way we can have them all written and

50

1 ready to submit as soon as the call for proposals goes  
2 out.

3  
4 Just to clarify this delay of the call  
5 for proposals is common procedure during changes in  
6 Administration. Once the call is published, the public  
7 will still have the typical allotted time to develop  
8 and submit proposals.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What was the deadline?

11  
12 MS. KLOSTERMAN: There is no deadline  
13 at this time because the call has not gone out yet.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks for clearing  
16 that up. Anybody have anything they want to bring up  
17 to propose? I don't have anything at this time.

18  
19 Brandon.

20  
21 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
22 I'm not exactly sure how to word this, but thinking of  
23 the concerns of others at the table here with the  
24 chinook salmon. Something I didn't hear earlier as one  
25 of the governing bodies that has management authority  
26 over fish is the North Pacific Fishery Management  
27 Council. Is that something that this Council can do,  
28 either proposal or sending somebody down to the North  
29 Pacific Fishery Management Council to testify against  
30 the bycatch?

31  
32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I have not heard that,  
33 but that doesn't say that Karen will give us the answer  
34 we want to hear.

35  
36 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
37 Through the Chair, Mr. Ahmasuk. The North Pacific  
38 Fishery Council proposals are outside of this process  
39 that is being presented to you right now. This process  
40 is specifically for subsistence proposals that will be  
41 deliberated on by the Federal Subsistence Board. We  
42 are currently in a wildlife cycle.

43  
44 That said, as far as bycatch issues and  
45 the other issue that's been very prominent with the  
46 North Pacific Fishery Board is a subsistence seat on  
47 that board. Those issues were brought up on a joint  
48 letter signed by all the Councils at the all-Councils  
49 meeting and was given to the Federal Subsistence Board

50

1 for response. We are waiting on a response to that.  
2 When that response comes out, the Council will receive  
3 it.

4  
5 The other issue is we just received at  
6 the Kodiak meeting a report on bycatch for chinook  
7 salmon. Some of you may recall that the bycatch limits  
8 for the chinook salmon were lowered. So in some areas  
9 they were below that limit. In some areas they were  
10 right up against it, but it seems like there has been  
11 some improvement in minimizing or lowering the chinook  
12 bycatch by these commercial fishing operations, but  
13 there's still a long way to go apparently.

14  
15 I do have reports that I would be happy  
16 to send to anybody on the Council who's interested.  
17 They're quite large, but I'd be happy to send those  
18 reports to you from 2016.

19  
20 Thank you.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen.

23  
24 Brandon.

25  
26 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
27 I'm understanding the proposal process, but still does  
28 that limit someone from this Council going and  
29 testifying? I mean like if we had a joint agreement  
30 basically. We put our heads together and a letter what  
31 this Council would want to say to testify.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: As you recall, this  
34 Council a few years ago put in the first -- what was it  
35 called. It was on the bycatch limit of chum salmon at  
36 30,000 and we submitted that Tim Towarak's Federal  
37 Subsistence Board. We were the first ones  
38 to put it forward. It carried some weight for a while  
39 there and then it got -- and all the tribes in the  
40 region were doing that.

41  
42 Do you recall that when we did that  
43 with Kawerak or were you on there then? Maybe not.

44  
45 Anyway, we did it at that level at that  
46 time. I'd be interested to find out what we can do  
47 from these Councils.

48  
49 Okay. Karen.

50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2 I apologize I didn't finish answering your question.  
3 The Council is more than welcome to write a letter to  
4 the North Pacific Fishery Board. You may go through  
5 the Federal Subsistence Board if you wish to push that  
6 letter through or you may actually write a letter or  
7 submit a letter from this Council directly.

8  
9 Any member of this Council can attend a  
10 North Pacific Fishery Board meeting and speak on behalf  
11 of the Council if they wish under the letter, but,  
12 again, it's not part of the call for proposals here  
13 that we're doing, but it's certainly welcome. I have  
14 had other Councils that have authored letters to the  
15 Fishery Board.

16  
17 Thanks.

18  
19 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks for that  
22 question, Brandon, and thanks for the answer, Karen.  
23 So there's no deadline at this time because there's no  
24 action because of the change in Trump on down effect.

25  
26 MS. KLOSTERMAN: That is correct, Mr.  
27 Chair.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is there any more  
30 discussion to have on this topic by the Council.

31  
32 (No comments)

33  
34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody in the room.

35  
36 (No comments)

37  
38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: On the phone.

39  
40 (No comments)

41  
42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for your  
43 time.

44  
45 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Thank you.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Alright. We've got  
48 two more items under new business that we're not going  
49 to cover today that we moved under the amendments to

50

1 tomorrow, right? Not under amendments, but we're  
2 not.....

3  
4 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, that's  
5 correct.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So then we'll take up  
8 agency reports. Anybody want to have coffee first  
9 before they get up here. I'm going to call for a five-  
10 minute break. It's 20 minutes to noon. We've got five  
11 minutes. Get your coffee and sit back down. We want  
12 to empty the pot before lunch. We're leaving for  
13 lunch, right, Karen?

14  
15 (Off record)

16  
17 (On record)

18  
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: This is a short one  
20 more thing out of the way.

21  
22 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Council  
23 Members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. I'll be  
24 pretty brief actually. The first thing I wanted to  
25 briefly talk about though was some staffing. As some  
26 of you may or may not know, our Park Superintendent  
27 Jeanette Koelsch has been out for several months now on  
28 maternity leave. We have had a couple of acting  
29 superintendents standing in for her. She had a baby  
30 boy recently and is back and is now back in the office  
31 working.

32  
33 And then the other really great news  
34 for us in Bering Land Bridge is we've added a new  
35 employee. Nikki, do you want to come up here for a  
36 minute.

37  
38 (Applause)

39  
40 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, we're extremely  
41 pleased with this outcome. We hired Nikki Braem as a  
42 cultural anthropologist with the Park and she'll be  
43 working in subsistence as well as other aspects of  
44 cultural resources management and we're really looking  
45 forward to having her for her research capabilities and  
46 also aspects of like consultation work with our  
47 affiliated communities and so forth. So we're very  
48 pleased to have her as an addition to our staff.

49  
50



1                   The other thing I wanted to briefly  
2 mention was you have materials in your book related to  
3 the so-called horns and antlers or collection of  
4 naturally-occurring discarded wildlife parts and plants  
5 for the making and selling of handicrafts. That's been  
6 a long-standing problem as you may recall from your  
7 other meetings. The Park Service had regulations that  
8 prohibited that. It took really several years to get a  
9 regulation package together that would legalize what  
10 people have been customary and traditionally been doing  
11 for years and years.

12  
13                   We finally got a reg package through  
14 and the materials in your book I believe say they were  
15 to be in effect -- it was published originally in  
16 January or was going to be to take effect in February,  
17 but then it got caught in the Administration change,  
18 just like the call for Federal wildlife proposals. So  
19 that now is scheduled, we think, to be out at the end  
20 of this month. So once that happens, those practices  
21 will become perfectly legal.

22  
23                   To find out what's in it, you can just  
24 look in your book and see that there's a copy in there  
25 of the final regulations. So if you have questions on  
26 the basis of that, you can contact us or we can talk  
27 about it at the next meeting or something when they're  
28 actually in place. Right now they're still pending.

29  
30                   Then the other thing I briefly wanted  
31 to mention was just sort of something I think might be  
32 of interest to you and that's the results so far of our  
33 FX22-06 Federal muskoxen hunt for 2016-17. That's the  
34 hunt we manage in the Kuzitrin-Pilgrim drainage.

35  
36                   As you know, hunt management got quite  
37 complex after an 804 situation and we had to increase  
38 the pool of eligibles and so forth. That's one of the  
39 hunts that draws a lot of attention from Nome. One of  
40 the things we did was go to a randomized drawing from  
41 among all Federally qualified applicants for that hunt.  
42 This year we issued two Federal permits for that hunt.  
43 The quotas are shared with the State. I believe  
44 there's about four. The quotas for that I think is  
45 about four bull muskoxen.

46  
47                   Anyway, we had 47 applicants who  
48 applied for that hunt. Two were from White Mountain.  
49 One was from Teller and the rest were from Nome and  
50

1 both the selected applicants through the random drawing  
2 were from Nome and we've had no reported Federal  
3 harvest so far on that hunt, which closes March 15th.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Did you say four?

6  
7 MR. ADKISSON: I believe that's the  
8 quota for that hunt. That's shared with the State and  
9 they merged their kind of 22D Kuzitrin hunt with their  
10 22D remainder, which is largely American and Agiapuk,  
11 so I think that leaves us with about 11 outstanding  
12 permits for that, so we didn't want to risk issuing any  
13 more Federal permits.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody got any  
16 questions or comments with Ken.

17  
18 (No comments)

19  
20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It sounds like if  
21 there will be that comes to mind during lunch or  
22 something.

23  
24 MR. ADKISSON: I guess one thing I  
25 would add, Mr. Chair and Council Members, is that I  
26 think maybe Bill Dunker may speak to it later on the  
27 State's behalf, but we are in the process of conducting  
28 a new census for our population estimate for the Seward  
29 Pen muskoxen and we'll be doing comp work shortly and  
30 that information will go into making up new harvest  
31 quotas or allowable harvest estimates for the 2017-18  
32 hunt.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you, Ken.  
35 Welcome aboard, Nikki.

36  
37 MS. BRAEM: Thank you. It's great to  
38 be back home after I think about 15 years maybe now I  
39 was in the Interior.

40  
41 So I'm looking forward to working with  
42 you all.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks. Yeah, we  
45 raised you.

46  
47 (Laughter)

48  
49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: With that, I think we  
50

1 need to take a lunch break here. What time are we  
2 coming back, Karen.

3  
4 MS. DEATHERAGE: Do what you want.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Do we want an hour,  
7 hour and a half. Too much? I seen you raise your  
8 eyebrows.

9  
10 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. That  
11 should be good. We have a few agenda items left for  
12 this afternoon, including at 3:00 we'll have Jennifer  
13 Bell present information on the Unalakleet Weir.

14  
15 And then this evening, again, I want to  
16 make sure it is announced again on the record that  
17 there is a public hearing from 5:30 to 7:30 on Wildlife  
18 Special Action 17-01, which deals with moose in Unit  
19 22A. We want to encourage the Council Members to  
20 attend that and the reason why is because you will be  
21 deliberating on that proposal tomorrow after you hear  
22 from Fish and Game and BLM as well as our wildlife  
23 biologist here. So 5:30 to 7:30 this evening.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Can we do it here?

26  
27 MS. DEATHERAGE: The special hearing  
28 will be held in this room, yes.

29  
30 Thank you.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. And that's  
33 moose on 22A.

34  
35 MR. OYOUMICK: That's me.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That's Leland. We're  
38 off. We're breaking for lunch.

39  
40 (Off record)

41  
42 (On record)

43  
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We're going to call  
45 the meeting back to order. It's 1:45. Right on  
46 schedule. We're in agency reports, item 11, and I  
47 think Carol Ann Woody is going to come up and speak to  
48 the crowd.

49  
50

1 If there are any public members out  
2 there or tribes that have any comments or questions, on  
3 the phone, I don't see anybody in the room, I'd  
4 entertain that at this moment.

5  
6 (No comments)

7  
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Carol,  
9 you have the floor.

10  
11 MS. WOODY: Hello. For the record, I  
12 am Carol Ann Woody and I'm with the National Park  
13 Service. I'm here today because I just wanted to talk  
14 to you a little bit about a Fisheries Resource  
15 Monitoring Program proposal that was submitted by  
16 myself and a young woman named Laura Aspens, who is a  
17 Sea Grant Fellow and who I am mentoring right now.

18  
19 And you might remember that one of the  
20 priority research projects for the Fisheries Research  
21 Monitoring Program was to do a fish survey for the  
22 Bering Land Bridge National Preserve and so we put in  
23 to do that. The reason I'm here now is we've been  
24 working to get letters of support for this project. So  
25 far we've gotten letters of support from Deering,  
26 Shishmaref. We're getting one from the community of  
27 Wales and we've also gotten one from Norton Sound  
28 Economic Development Corporation. I'm trying to  
29 remember everything.

30  
31 But I'm going to give you just a really  
32 brief overview and I'm going to read it just because  
33 I'll do a better job. This is from the abstract from  
34 our proposal. The title of it is Bering Land Bridge  
35 National Preserve Combining Traditional Ecological  
36 Knowledge and Scientific Surveys for a Contemporary  
37 Baseline.

38  
39 Fish are traditional and culturally  
40 important food source for residents of the Seward  
41 Peninsula and they comprise a significant portion of  
42 subsistence harvest. Despite their importance, basic  
43 information on fish, including species distributions,  
44 their essential habitats, such as where they spawn,  
45 where they rear, things like that, and also population  
46 characteristics, when do they spawn, how old and how  
47 big are they when they spawn, things like that.

48  
49 This type of information is lacking,  
50

1 especially for waters in and near the Bering Land  
2 Bridge National Preserve. Residents of Wales,  
3 Shishmaref, Deering and other communities all harvest  
4 fish from waters within or near the Preserve, but basic  
5 fisheries information remains undocumented for the  
6 Preserve.

7  
8 Systematic fish and essential fish  
9 habitat surveys have never been conducted in this  
10 region, yet such surveys are an important basic first  
11 step in designing monitoring programs and understanding  
12 key aquatic resources for future conservation.

13  
14 So what I'd like to ask of the RAC and  
15 what I'll do later today is I'll print up a little one-  
16 pager for you guys to look at and I'll also pull  
17 together sort of a template for a potential support  
18 letter that you can change however you want. So if you  
19 think it's something that you could support as the  
20 Regional Advisory Council, that would be marvelous.

21  
22 Anyway, that's why I'm here and if you  
23 could support something like that, we would greatly  
24 appreciate it.

25  
26 So that's it.

27  
28 Thank you very much.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Carol Ann.  
31 Council, anybody have questions.

32  
33 Brandon, go ahead.

34  
35 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
36 Carol, I've got a couple questions. I'm always for  
37 documenting basically what the region puts on the table  
38 for food everyday, but I'm just curious if you've read  
39 -- Kawerak has the salmon/non-salmon project. I think  
40 it kind of covers what you're asking. Maybe not in  
41 whole or maybe just part of it, but, anyway, I was just  
42 wondering if that's something that has been brought to  
43 your attention.

44  
45 MS. WOODY: So we did go through the  
46 Kawerak reports and they did a wonderful job and we've  
47 been in touch with Julie regarding this because -- and  
48 actually we've been chatting because being a fish  
49 biologist we have different categorizations for fish  
50

1 and what people call trout here is different for a fish  
2 biologist.

3  
4 So in the reports that were prepared  
5 for Kawerak it's been difficult for me as a fish  
6 biologist to figure out exactly what species are being  
7 used and whether they're anadromous, if they go to sea  
8 or not. So there's a lot of things biologically that  
9 are difficult to assess from those reports. The work  
10 was very good and it's a great basis to springboard  
11 from.

12  
13 So we're planning to meet with Julie  
14 and also I'm planning to talk to the folks at Kawerak  
15 to see how we can work together to build on that  
16 information and also get some of that -- once we figure  
17 out what species exactly are being talked about, get  
18 some of that information into the regulatory catalogs  
19 because if there's salmon going into some of those  
20 systems, it's important to get that information into  
21 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's anadromous  
22 waters catalog.

23  
24 If there's specific freshwater species,  
25 make sure that gets into their freshwater fish  
26 database. There's a lot of really basic information  
27 that -- for a fish biologist, I need to know if the  
28 whitefish is a humpback whitefish instead of if it's  
29 just a whitefish. A lot of the species got lumped  
30 together and I need to separate those out and better  
31 understand what their habits and characteristics are.

32  
33 So basically I'd like to build on what  
34 was done by Kawerak.

35  
36 MR. KATCHEAK: This is Ted. I think  
37 the correct word is a broad whitefish.

38  
39 MS. WOODY: Broad whitefish.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Are there any other  
42 questions from the Council for Carol. Good question to  
43 ask though, Brandon. That was good. Thanks.

44  
45 (No comments)

46  
47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I guess that's it.

48  
49 MS. WOODY: Okay. And I'm here for

50

1 questions and I'm very happy to talk with all of you  
2 regarding the different species. We've been chatting  
3 about some of the different species that are used  
4 locally, which I'm working to understand what people  
5 use and identify them from the science side.

6  
7 Thank you for your time and I  
8 appreciate your attention.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Took the words out of  
11 my mouth. I was going to invite them to go talk to  
12 you.

13  
14 MS. WOODY: Yeah, I'm very happy to  
15 talk to all of you. Yes, yes.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So where are we,  
18 Karen.

19  
20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Karen.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Crystal Leonetti is on  
25 the phone right now and she is prepared to speak to the  
26 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Native American Policy  
27 and Alaska Native Policy. You all have a copy of that.  
28 That was provided as a loose copy. So if everybody  
29 could find those documents, it's kind of a thick packet  
30 with three holes punched in it. There's also copies on  
31 the back table if anybody in the audience is interested  
32 in having a copy as well. As soon as everybody gets  
33 that in front of them, you can go ahead and ask Crystal  
34 to speak to it.

35  
36 Thank you.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Crystal, you have the  
39 floor. This is Louis.

40  
41 REPORTER: I have a feeling that the  
42 phone was cut off.

43  
44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, it was cut off.  
45 I just got an email.

46  
47 (Pause)

48  
49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Crystal, are you  
50

1 online?

2

3

MS. LEONETTI: Yeah, I'm here.

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. You have the

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

MS. LEONETTI: Awesome. Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council Members. My name is Crystal Leonetti. I'm the Alaska Native Affairs Specialist for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and I'm located in Anchorage, Alaska. I'm Yup'ik and my family is from Bristol Bay and I grew up in Anchor Point, Alaska.

15

16

17

18

19

20

You all should have received copies of two documents. One is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Native American Policy. That policy was signed January of 2015 and that applies across the nation and is specific to our relationship with Federally recognized tribes.

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

The second document is a draft of the companion policy for Alaska. It's titled the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Alaska Native Relations Policy. The two documents are meant to be used side by side and it's difficult to gain full context of the draft Alaska Policy without the Native American Policy nearby as a reference.

29

30

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39

There's two reasons why we needed an Alaska-specific policy as a companion to the Native American Policy. One reason is because of subsistence. Subsistence is a provision in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, in the Marine Mammal Protection Act, in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and in the Endangered Species Act. Three of the Acts are specific to Alaska Native peoples and therefore we had a need to describe responsibilities to all employees under these Act.

40

41

42

43

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48

The second reason is because we are directed by law to work with Native entities in addition to working with tribal government. There became a need to describe our relationships with Alaska Native organizations and to Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act corporations. I'll call them Alaska Native corporations for short.

49

50

Members of Alaska Native organizations



1 include the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management  
2 Council, the Eskimo Walrus Commission and the regional  
3 Native non-profit like Tanana Chiefs Conference,  
4 Kawerak Association and Village Council Presidents.

5  
6 With this draft of the Alaska Native  
7 Relations Policy it gives guidance to our employees for  
8 their responsibilities and opportunities for  
9 relationships to tribes, Alaska Native organizations  
10 and Alaska Native corporations. The sections directly  
11 correspond to the Native American policy, including an  
12 introduction and the following sections.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Crystal.

15  
16 MS. LEONETTI: Yes?

17  
18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Let me kind of cut in  
19 there. Somebody's got their mute off, those that have  
20 called in. Please hit your mute on your phone if  
21 you're not speaking.

22  
23 Okay, Crystal.

24  
25 MS. LEONETTI: Thank you. The sections  
26 of the Alaska Policy directly correspond to the Native  
27 American Policy. The first one is an introduction.  
28 The second section is about sovereignty and  
29 government-to-government relations. The third section  
30 is about communication and relationships. Four,  
31 resource management. Five, culture and religion. Six,  
32 law enforcement. Seven, tribal capacity building,  
33 assistance and funding. Eight, implementation and  
34 monitoring. Nine, scope and limitations. And then  
35 there's three exhibits. One is for definitions, one is  
36 for overall responsibilities and three is for  
37 authority.

38  
39 This Draft Alaska Native Relations  
40 Policy was developed over the last year with a team of  
41 culturally and geographically balanced tribal and  
42 Alaska Native corporation representatives.  
43 The Draft Alaska Native Relations Policy will be  
44 published in the Federal Register soon and it will be  
45 open for public review.

46  
47 In anticipation of the public comment  
48 period, we are providing it to Regional Advisory  
49 Councils for your information. The Tribal Alaskan  
50

1 Native Corporation consultation phase will be occurring  
2 during approximately the same timeframe of the public  
3 review.

4  
5 We're not certain yet when the public  
6 comment period will close because that date will be  
7 tied to the date of the publication in the Federal  
8 Register, but to help in this time we suggest that  
9 comments be submitted by April 26, but that date could  
10 change if there's a delay in the Federal Register  
11 notice process. Comments may be submitted to myself or  
12 my colleague Joanne Bryant and I think you have that  
13 contact information on the cover of the handout.

14  
15 You can also give your verbal feedback  
16 now or ask questions and I will take notes and make  
17 sure that that's incorporated. We're not asking for  
18 Regional Advisory Council actions. We just wanted to  
19 provide this to you for your information and encourage  
20 subsistence hunters and fishers to read it and provide  
21 us with any comments that they may have.

22  
23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Crystal.

26  
27 Anybody on the Council here have any  
28 questions or comments.

29  
30 (No comments)

31  
32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none and  
33 seeing none, thank you for your report.

34  
35 MS. LEONETTI: You're welcome.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hi, Tom. Karen.

38  
39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
40 The Council can now continue with the agenda to ask for  
41 any reports from ADF&G or the Bureau of Land Management  
42 that do not have anything to do with the Wildlife  
43 Special Action 17-01 for moose in Unit 22A. The  
44 Council can also review its future meeting dates at  
45 this time, which I know is at the end of the agenda,  
46 but it's an item that you can take care of at this  
47 time. So those are the recommendations.

48  
49 Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm of the mind to  
2 call ADF&G up. I know there's some young fellows here  
3 waiting to share some stuff with us.

4  
5 Bill, you're up.

6  
7 MR. DUNKER: Good afternoon, everybody.  
8 For the record, my name is Bill Dunker. I'm the Unit  
9 22 area biologist based here in Nome with the  
10 Department of Fish and Game. I'll just mention a  
11 couple of things that we've had in the works here that  
12 don't relate to the special action that we'll be  
13 talking about tomorrow. I do have some information to  
14 present about that, but we'll get to that tomorrow.

15  
16 For starters, we've had the addition of  
17 a few staff members in Region 5. We have re-hired the  
18 Western Arctic Herd research biologist based in  
19 Kotzebue. His name is Alex Hansen and he recently  
20 started his job up in Kotzebue and has been working  
21 with the Department now for a couple months getting the  
22 ball rolling on all of our caribou SNI activities and  
23 whatnot.

24  
25 In the Nome Office, we've added an  
26 additional biologist who is here today actually. His  
27 name is Warren Hansen. Say hi, Warren. Warren started  
28 a couple months ago. He's going to be working as an  
29 intensive management biologist to evaluate some of the  
30 feasibility of any management activities that we may  
31 pursue in the future here.

32  
33 Some of the projects that we've got  
34 lined out for Unit 22 along those lines include a  
35 browse survey for Unit 22D. We'll be looking at a  
36 browse removal rate to evaluate resource limitation in  
37 the area. And then we've also got plans to do a  
38 twinning survey and some sort of a calf mortality  
39 study, feasibility assessment this coming spring. Most  
40 of that work will take place right around peak calving  
41 towards the end of May, early June, and the browse work  
42 at this point is scheduled to take place in April.  
43 Again, that's primarily in Unit 22D.

44  
45 So it's kind of a big change for us in  
46 Region 5. These guys represent the addition of a full-  
47 blown research program. Lincoln Parrett, a biologist  
48 based out of Fairbanks, is now serving as the research  
49 coordinator for the region. We're all really excited

50

1 to have these guys around to start looking at some of  
2 the questions that we have throughout the region about  
3 some of our wildlife resources and we're looking  
4 forward to working with them to shed some light on some  
5 of those questions.

6  
7 As I'm sure some of you are aware, we  
8 had a Board of Game meeting this year. Myself and the  
9 rest of Region 5 met with the Board of Game in early  
10 January down in Bethel and I have just a couple of  
11 updates about some of the actions that were taken that  
12 pertain particularly to Region 5 and more specifically  
13 to Unit 22.

14  
15 So the Board did pass Proposal No. 2.  
16 It was to modify the hunt structure for the Western  
17 Arctic Herd and the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd. This  
18 primarily affected Unit 23 and 26A since the Northern  
19 Norton Sound AC had worked with the Department and the  
20 Board of Game to establish a registration permit here  
21 in Unit 22 during the 2015 regulatory year. But as of  
22 this last meeting we've been working with other  
23 stakeholders in the region in Units 23 and 26A to roll  
24 out a registration caribou permit for those areas, more  
25 or less following suit with what we've already done  
26 down here in Unit 22.

27  
28 Some of the other proposals that were  
29 discussed included 26 and 27. They lengthened the  
30 resident season for moose in the central portion of  
31 Unit 22A, so the RM841 hunt area the season dates for  
32 that hunt will now be September 1st through September  
33 20th. Along those same lines, the nonresident season  
34 in the northern portion was also extended September 1st  
35 to September 20th.

36  
37 The proposal that this RAC submitted,  
38 Proposal 28, was carried by the Board of Game with an  
39 amendment. The nonresident season in Unit 22 remainder  
40 was eliminated; however, they chose to retain the  
41 nonresident season in Unit 22E.

42  
43 A couple things related to brown bears.  
44 The spring season for brown bear hunting in Unit 22C  
45 was lengthened from May 2 to May 31st to April 1st to  
46 May 31st. So we added about a month's worth of  
47 opportunity there.

48  
49 Proposal 31 changed the bag limit for  
50

1 brown bears in Unit 22B. That was carried by the Board  
2 of Game and changed the bag limit for Unit 22B for  
3 residents from a one bear per regulatory year bag limit  
4 to a two bear per regulatory year bag limit.

5  
6 Lastly, down in Unit 22A the brown bear  
7 hunting season in the southern portion was extended to  
8 close June 15th, more or less following suit with the  
9 rest of the unit there.

10  
11 I think the last time I spoke with you  
12 guys I had mentioned that we were going to be gearing  
13 up to head out and do some moose composition surveys  
14 last fall. We actually did succeed. We had the snow  
15 conditions and the weather worked out and we were able  
16 to do surveys in both 22D in both the Kuzitrin and the  
17 Agiapuk River drainage as well as Unit 22E. We also  
18 got down to 22A and did a comp survey down there, which  
19 will more or less relate to that Wildlife Special  
20 Action, so we'll talk about that tomorrow.

21  
22 But the comp estimates for Unit 22D  
23 remainder indicated that there has been a decline in  
24 the bull:cow ration in that particular area. The last  
25 survey that we conducted was in 2011, at which time we  
26 found 35 bulls per 100 cows. In 2016, we found that  
27 that had declined to 23 bulls per 100 cows. So that's  
28 certainly a management concern for us at this time and  
29 we'll be looking to both yourselves and the Northern  
30 Norton Sound AC to come up with some management  
31 alternatives that can help to remedy that situation.

32  
33 Similarly, we did find declines in the  
34 bull:cow ratio in the Kuzitrin River as well. We had  
35 done a survey in there in 2013. Found 33 bulls per 100  
36 cows and that has declined to 20 bulls per 100 cows.  
37 So we'll have to evaluate our harvest rates and quotas  
38 for that area and there may be some changes coming down  
39 the line here that we'll hopefully work to increase  
40 that metric there in the future.

41  
42 The positive news would be on the other  
43 side of the range there. 22E continues to have high  
44 bull:cow ratios. We found 41 bulls per 100 cows when  
45 we did it the first time in 2014 and as of last fall it  
46 was 38 bulls per 100 cows. So that's the good news on  
47 that front there.

48  
49 I think Ken had mentioned that we are  
50

1 in the process right now of completing a Seward  
2 Peninsula muskox survey. We've got a crew poised,  
3 ready and waiting. The weather hasn't really  
4 cooperated the last couple of days, but we have a few  
5 more days to finish things up and we'll be working to  
6 get a new estimate on the population shortly  
7 thereafter.

8  
9 As Ken mentioned, once we wrap things  
10 up with the population survey we'll be heading back out  
11 again to take a look at the composition of the  
12 population and all that will go towards establishing  
13 harvest quotas and evaluating the harvestable surplus  
14 for the different hunt areas in the region.

15  
16 I guess lastly, you know, along the  
17 lines of what Ken was talking about with regards to the  
18 2016-2017 muskox hunts, the season will close for those  
19 on the 15th of March. As of today, we've taken four  
20 out of five in TX095, so the inner Nome area here right  
21 around town harvested one out of four for the TX096  
22 hunt.

23  
24 We have harvested three out of eight in  
25 the TX102 hunt. We are one for one in TX103 up by  
26 Teller in 22D southwest and we've harvested one out of  
27 10 in the TX105 hunt in 22B. RX104, the registration  
28 hunt up in 22E we've harvested four out of six there  
29 and for TX106 in 23 southwest we have yet to receive  
30 any reports of harvest in that hunt.

31  
32 All in all, it's not too late. This  
33 isn't very unusual for us. Oftentimes we've seen,  
34 particularly with this hunt, a large portion of the  
35 harvest can occur late in the season. Everybody kind  
36 of remembers I've got to go harvest my muskox and they  
37 head out the door and get after it here now that the  
38 weather is nicer and good travel conditions, more  
39 daylight and things like that. We anticipate to get  
40 more reports here in the near future.

41  
42 I guess lastly we did have a SNAFU with  
43 the Tier II system this year when the permits were  
44 issued initially and then rescinded and the scores were  
45 recalculated and the permits reissued to the  
46 appropriate permit holders. We issued a total of 37  
47 permits for the 2017-18 hunt. I anticipate working  
48 closely with Ken to follow suit with what we've done in  
49 years past as far as issuing additional permits as

50

1 Federal permits to account for things like hunter  
2 success and all that kind of stuff.

3  
4 So aside from getting into the stuff  
5 about 22A, which we'll save for tomorrow, I'd be happy  
6 to answer any questions you guys might have.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Brandon.

9  
10 Thanks, Bill.

11  
12 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
13 Thanks, Bill. I had a couple questions. With the new  
14 regulation for 22B to go two a year for bear, that  
15 includes that now they'll be able to sell the hides,  
16 claws and skulls from that unit?

17  
18 MR. DUNKER: Yeah, that's correct.  
19 Bears harvested from an area with a two bear per year  
20 bag limit are legal for sale. We've been waiting to  
21 hear back.....

22  
23 MR. AHMASUK: Both of them?

24  
25 MR. DUNKER: Both of them, yeah. So  
26 even if you only harvest one animal, as long as it  
27 comes from a two bear per year area, it's legal for  
28 sale. We've been talking back and forth with  
29 headquarters staff about, you know, what kind of a  
30 system might be put in place to just monitor and keep  
31 tabs of that, but as of right now we're still working  
32 on it is the best I can tell you right now.

33  
34 MR. AHMASUK: The second question, 22D  
35 moose in Kuzitritin, you noted what I consider a  
36 substantial decline in the bull:cow ratio. Is there  
37 any data from the Department trying to -- from  
38 predators, is it the harvest from hunters or what is  
39 it?

40  
41 MR. DUNKER: So the last three years or  
42 so we have overharvested in that area. We've had a  
43 harvest quota of, say, I think it was 30 last year.  
44 That represented about a 4 percent harvest rate. In  
45 that year we went over by about a full percentage  
46 point.

47  
48 So we've got a couple options that we  
49 can take as we move forward here to simply require a  
50

1 shorter reporting period. You know, it's a three-day  
2 reporting period for Unit 22D and by shortening it up  
3 we may be better able to kind of hit our mark with the  
4 harvest quota and prevent overharvest in any given  
5 year. So there are some options and that's where we're  
6 kind of looking first. At least for the immediate  
7 future.

8  
9 Like I mentioned, we're going to be  
10 doing some browse work in the area to evaluate whether  
11 habitat limitations are playing any kind of a role in  
12 the trajectory of that population and then that will be  
13 kind of the first step in a series of efforts to just  
14 better understand what the situation is in 22D.

15  
16 I guess to answer your question I don't  
17 necessarily have the smoking gun in hand, but we are  
18 taking steps towards evaluating that and coming up with  
19 a better understanding of what may be going on in the  
20 area.

21  
22 MR. AHMASUK: Thanks, Bill. Just one  
23 more question. Do you have a business card? And,  
24 Warren, is that right, do you have a business card that  
25 you can hand out to us?

26  
27 MR. HANSEN: I don't have mine printed  
28 yet.

29  
30 (Laughter)

31  
32 MR. DUNKER: I've got a couple. I'll  
33 see what I can come up with here. Maybe just the one,  
34 but I'll be happy to pass it around and certainly if  
35 you guys want to get a hold of me, I'm here at the  
36 office most days unless we've got good flying weather.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Leland.

39  
40 MR. OYOUMICK: Do you see any weird  
41 things as far as when you cut an animal open? Anybody  
42 ever report such a thing?

43  
44 MR. DUNKER: Could you elaborate a  
45 little bit. I guess I'm not quite sure what you're  
46 asking.

47  
48 MR. OYOUMICK: Like bad livers and  
49 such, pussy meat. There's been several reports in  
50



1 caribou. I didn't know if it's happening in moose.

2  
3 MR. DUNKER: You know, we certainly at  
4 times hear about just those types of things that you  
5 mentioned. Old wounds, abscesses that form in the  
6 meat. There's a variety of parasites and things like  
7 that that can more often than not be found to naturally  
8 occur in populations of moose throughout the state. We  
9 haven't noticed anything alarming with that respect.  
10 Oftentimes it's an older animal that's maybe been  
11 around the block and is more susceptible to those kinds  
12 of parasites and things of that nature. Like I said,  
13 nothing alarming at this point.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I had a question on  
16 that 22D remainder and 22E. What's the relationship --  
17 I've heard in the past that there's a relationship  
18 between 22D and 22E. I'm wondering if that narrows  
19 down to 22D remainder on the population being affected  
20 by migration back and forth, Bill.

21  
22 MR. DUNKER: Yeah, so in the very early  
23 '80s some of my predecessors had some collared animals  
24 in the area and they identified that there very well  
25 may be some sort of movement that occurs between those  
26 two areas. So to account for that, when we do moose  
27 surveys in those areas, we do them collectively.

28  
29 So when we head out, we're planning to  
30 do another survey next spring, we'll do 22D and 22E  
31 together. The intent there is that any movement that  
32 may be occurring should be captured since we're  
33 surveying both areas at the same time.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: On that 22E, was it  
36 nonresident or non -- I didn't catch that, I was  
37 writing. I'm sorry.

38  
39 MR. DUNKER: So the proposal that you  
40 guys submitted to the Board of Game during the last  
41 Board of Game cycle asked to eliminate the nonresident  
42 season in both 22D remainder and 22E. The Board  
43 adopted that proposal as amended by the Northern Norton  
44 Sound Advisory Committee to eliminate the nonresident  
45 season in 22D remainder, but it was retained or they  
46 chose not to eliminate it in 22E, so that RM855  
47 nonresident moose hunt will take place this coming  
48 fall.

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What's the count on  
2 that for quota?

3  
4 MR. DUNKER: The harvest quota for 22E  
5 is 13 moose, for the RM855 nonresident hunt. The  
6 resident seasons continues as a green harvest ticket  
7 general season hunt.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And there was three  
10 nonresident tags there prior, correct?

11  
12 MR. DUNKER: 22D remainder prior to  
13 being eliminated -- excuse me. The nonresident season  
14 in 22D remainder had a harvest quota of three antlered  
15 bulls with antlers greater than 50 inches or four or  
16 more brow tines on one side.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Bill.  
19 Somebody at the table here got a question. I think it  
20 was Elmer.

21  
22 MR. SEETOT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We  
23 had a bunch of Interior wildfires during the past year.  
24 I think that you mentioned something about migration  
25 between regions. Do they tend to stay in the area that  
26 they were born, like reindeer and caribou, or do they  
27 migrate when something drastic happens like wolf  
28 predation or forest fires where they can't feed, what  
29 they're specializing in feeding like willow shrubs and  
30 the like?

31  
32 My assumption is that between 22E is  
33 that they do have a lot of plants that contain sodium  
34 and other minerals that they lack in the Interior or in  
35 22D. Is that one of the reasons that they probably  
36 migrate? Because, you know, they smell the food other  
37 side of the mountains and then they go for that too,  
38 you know.

39  
40 In different times of their growing  
41 seasons or growing times, do they migrate other places  
42 to supplement their diet? That was my question there.  
43 Does wildfires get them to move to a different place  
44 and then stay there or do they, like reindeer and  
45 caribou, go to their birthing grounds when they're  
46 ready to have calves?

47  
48 That part of the moose biology is  
49 pretty hard to fathom because I think we've been  
50

1 dealing with reindeer and caribou for a long time. We  
2 pretty much know through their habits and the like.  
3 With moose, they're a newcomer to our area. Right now  
4 they're saying that there are a lot of moose within the  
5 Agiapuk River drainage system when most of our caribou  
6 have migrated toward the Kougarok, toward the  
7 Serpentine Springs area as of right now, along with the  
8 reindeer and along with the wolves.

9  
10 They're pretty much up on the north  
11 side, so we never did see too many wolves this winter.  
12 Just from migration from forest fires and stuff like  
13 that, they don't go back to the same range that they  
14 were accustomed to other than being driven out by  
15 forest fires or wolves.

16  
17 Did I make sense or did I just mumble  
18 along again?

19  
20 MR. DUNKER: No. I think you bring up  
21 some interesting points about the differences in the  
22 vegetation between 22E and 22D. I guess I honestly  
23 don't know the why of those movements. We just have a  
24 very basic understanding that they may be occurring as  
25 to like the why of that movement. It's hard to say and  
26 I don't know the answer to that question.

27  
28 As I understand it and maybe you can  
29 correct me here, but the fires that you're referring to  
30 most of those were tundra fires, is that about right?

31  
32 MR. SEETOT: Those were pretty much  
33 Interior fires, trees and stuff, not so much tundra.  
34 Not so much within Seward Peninsula, but direct east of  
35 Seward Peninsula and those places where trees are  
36 pretty much main timber, fire source.

37  
38 MR. DUNKER: Sure, sure. Okay. So as  
39 far as I understand it, a disturbance event, such as a  
40 fire, can oftentimes be very beneficial to a moose  
41 population because it will reset the successional clock  
42 back to earlier plant communities that may be more  
43 nutritional or more palatable for moose. It will take  
44 out a lot of the older spruce trees and then what comes  
45 up underneath it might be cottonwoods and willows and  
46 things like that that are better browse for moose.

47  
48 I think the Kenai Peninsula is probably  
49 a really good example of that where they've got, you  
50

1 know, historical fires that they can kind of clock  
2 through time and 20, 30 years after a fire you really  
3 have some pretty phenomenal moose habitat available for  
4 those animals.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, Bill. Thanks.  
7 Anybody else from the Council.

8  
9 MR. ENINGOWUK: Good afternoon. This  
10 is Fred.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Fred.

13  
14 MR. ENINGOWUK: Good afternoon. I just  
15 had a question on the declining of the Western Arctic  
16 Caribou Herd and hunting. On those State regulations  
17 currently is nonresidents able to hunt the caribou in  
18 23 other areas in 22?

19  
20 MR. DUNKER: As it stands right now,  
21 there is a nonresident season in Unit 22 for caribou.  
22 It's on a general season harvest ticket. I don't have  
23 it off the top of my head, but I want to say it's  
24 September 1st to September 30th season. I could double  
25 check on that real quick if need be.

26  
27 MR. ENINGOWUK: One more question on  
28 that. I know that they do surveys on caribou and most  
29 of that is being done up north and just wondering if  
30 they do count the resident caribou that are in our  
31 area. We have caribou that are -- you know, we have  
32 them all year round in 22E and I was wondering if those  
33 are also counted for purposes of a caribou herd.

34  
35 MR. DUNKER: So in years when we've had  
36 collared caribou remain on the Seward Peninsula during  
37 a year when we've conducted a photo census we have made  
38 an effort to account for those animals in the estimate.  
39 Generally speaking, the information that I've always  
40 received from Jim Dau in years past is that the number  
41 of animals present on the Seward Peninsula in any given  
42 year is highly variable. Typically it's somewhere  
43 around 1,500 animals, but oftentimes when they did  
44 observe collared animals that remained on the Seward  
45 Peninsula rarely did it exceed two consecutive years.  
46 You would have an animal that would hang around on the  
47 Peninsula for a summer or two and then eventually it  
48 would start to move north with the rest of the herd.

49  
50

1 But, like I said, in years when we have  
2 had collared animals remain on the Seward Peninsula, we  
3 have made an effort to incorporate those animals and  
4 the animals associated with them into the estimate of  
5 the overall population.

6  
7 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yes, thank you on that.  
8 We've been having caribou all year round maybe the past  
9 six years possibly and they're fawning in 22E,  
10 Serpentine Hot Springs and other areas.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: No more questions,  
13 Fred.

14  
15 MR. ENINGOWUK: That's it. Thank you.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Fred.

18  
19 Ted, did you have a question.

20  
21 MR. KATCHEAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
22 Bill, I have a question. Do you have any plans to do  
23 any survey in Unit 22 remainder?

24  
25 MR. DUNKER: Through the Chair. I'm  
26 assuming you're referring to moose surveys, is that  
27 right?

28  
29 MR. KATCHEAK: Yes, moose surveys.

30  
31 MR. DUNKER: I'll get into this in  
32 greater detail tomorrow, but we were down there just  
33 last week. We did a Unit 22A moose survey in the  
34 central portion of the hunt area down there. So  
35 basically the RM841 hunt area is about what we covered.  
36 We hung on to our survey team for a day or so waiting  
37 to see if we would get the weather to go down and try  
38 and do some sort of minimum count survey in that lower  
39 portion of the unit. We unfortunately weren't able to  
40 make it happen and had to shift gears and get everybody  
41 back to Nome here for various reasons.

42  
43 Certainly it's something that's still  
44 on our radar and I personally would like to get down  
45 there and take a look at that country. Perhaps later  
46 on this spring or next fall we'd be able to take  
47 another look at it, but we did kind of miss our chance  
48 this time around. We'll see what the future holds, I  
49 guess.

50

1 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. The reason I  
2 posed that question was that I'm in the process of  
3 proposing to extend opening season to a later time and  
4 I don't really have a accurate information on how many  
5 moose in that area and we have a big influx of moose in  
6 the southern part of St. Michael, Stebbins. So I was  
7 curious if there was a good number count that would  
8 help me make a more liberal hunt.

9  
10 Thank you.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Are there any other  
13 questions of Bill.

14  
15 Elmer.

16  
17 MR. SEETOT: Not a question, just a  
18 comment. I guess bull harvest in Teller and Brevig is  
19 pretty much non-existent other than residents of 22C  
20 that do come up to Imuruk Basin or up that way to 22D.  
21 We do welcome them getting these critters. I know from  
22 riding around in the past that moose are heavy prey  
23 items for these wolves. Like I said a couple years ago  
24 we counted over 20. The Kuzitrin, the Davidson -- I  
25 mean the American and the Agiapuk River drainages where  
26 wolf kills were pretty much responsible for those moose  
27 to be taken down. Over 20. That was within a three-  
28 month period.

29  
30 So I do know that wolf predation on the  
31 animals within 22D are pretty heavy, whether it be  
32 moose, whether it be muskox or the reindeer. We had  
33 about four wolf packs that were going in and around  
34 Imuruk Basin the past five years. Their main food was  
35 Kakaruk Reindeer Herd in and around Tisuk River and  
36 Cape Woolley. Now that the majority of these wolves  
37 have been eliminated in and around the western portion  
38 of Seward Peninsula between Shishmaref and Brevig we  
39 noticed that the animals are there but they're going  
40 into other places that provide good habitat or feed or  
41 shelter for these animals.

42  
43 Due to climate change coming around, I  
44 think the vegetation is going to change a lot in  
45 certain places that do provide feed for these animals.  
46 With that in mind, we're ready to adapt to changes  
47 within the system. Like I said, we're not really bear  
48 harvesting communities of Teller and Brevig, so we kind  
49 of rely on outside people to keep our animals in check.

50

1                    Since our elders have passed on, that  
2 type of bear hunting I think kind of passed away about  
3 20 years ago. It's just mostly for DLP purposes. Bear  
4 harvest in and around Brevig are pretty much  
5 nonexistent other than just trying to keep them away  
6 from berry picking areas or plant gathering areas. So  
7 the numbers are pretty much in and around mountains or  
8 places that our people can't really go to for berry  
9 picking and for other plant gathering.

10

11                    Thank you.

12

13                    CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer.  
14 Fred, you made a comment on the phone. Is Ron on?

15

16                    MR. KIRK: Yeah, I'm on.

17

18                    CHAIRMAN GREEN: Do you have any  
19 questions or comments.

20

21                    MR. KIRK: I'd like to make a comment  
22 towards Fred's question concerning moose returning to  
23 their habitat after a wildfire. I've been fighting  
24 wildfires for over 30 years. I fight them in Alaska  
25 and I fight wildfires in Washington, Montana, where the  
26 elk are and Alaska where the moose is.

27

28                    Now during our fire season when we go  
29 out there and fight wildfires, the moose tend to move  
30 way, but once we can control that fire and we diminish  
31 it and we get rid of the flames and the hot ash, the  
32 moose and the elk return back to their habitat where  
33 they originally were born and where they're used to  
34 eating their vegetation. They tend to hang around.

35

36                    I know that because we encounter them a  
37 lot after we put the fire out. We have a big problem  
38 with moose and elk trying to get back in their range  
39 when we're trying to work on the rest of the fire. So  
40 they do return back to where they were born, like  
41 reindeer and caribou.

42

43                    That's the only comment I have, Mr.  
44 Chair.

45

46                    Thank you.

47

48                    CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron.

49

50

1 Anybody else.

2  
3 (No comments)

4  
5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I've got a question,  
6 Bill. On all of Unit 22 which areas have two-bear  
7 harvests?

8  
9 MR. DUNKER: Mr. Chair. That would  
10 include 22A and now 22B. In both instances, that two  
11 bear a year bag limit only applies to the resident bag  
12 limit. The nonresident bag limit remains one bear per  
13 regulatory year in both those areas.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Any reason for it not  
16 being nonresident or nobody pursues it?

17  
18 MR. DUNKER: I can't quite remember  
19 what the discussion was because it certainly came up at  
20 the Board of Game meeting. I can't put my finger on  
21 what the rationale was there.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What about the  
24 rationale behind -- has there been any proposals or  
25 anything towards the area 22C including another bear?  
26 I know that the harvest was -- the period was moved  
27 from May 1st to April 1st. I guess I wanted to know  
28 the justification for not mirroring all the other areas  
29 like August 1st to May 31st. I was there when there  
30 were changes made in the '90s and the harvest time was  
31 shortened and I'm wondering why it's not lengthened  
32 considering the issues we have with bears around human  
33 population.

34  
35 MR. DUNKER: Mr. Chair, I think you're  
36 well aware that just in the last several years we have  
37 made additional efforts to liberalize the brown bear  
38 regulations in Unit 22C. I think the first step  
39 towards that was to lengthen the season to May 1st to  
40 May 31st. We changed the bag limit from one bear every  
41 four regulatory years to one bear every regulatory year  
42 and now, as I mentioned, we've gone from April 1st to  
43 May 31st for the spring season.

44  
45 This past year 2015 we did see an  
46 increase in the number of bears harvested in Unit 22C.  
47 On average we harvested about 17 bears per year from  
48 1998 to 2014, somewhere in there. Seventeen bears per  
49 year were coming out of 22C. With the changes in the  
50



1 bag limit and just those initial changes to the season  
2 date in 2015 we harvested 30 bears per year out of 22C.

3  
4 I guess at this point it seems like the  
5 liberalizations that have been made up to this point  
6 may very well have effectively increased harvest in the  
7 area. At this point I think we would hesitate to  
8 support any additional liberalizations moving forward  
9 until we kind of give this some time to play out and  
10 see if this increase that we've seen in the last year  
11 equates to a longer term increase in harvest.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you. So,  
14 anyway, I'm a lifetime resident here and been around  
15 here for over 50 years and I can recall a time when we  
16 didn't have bears in the area. There was very few and  
17 I'm just kind of wondering what it is that ADF&G wants  
18 to turn this into. Is it a tourism issue or is it part  
19 of guiding? It's almost like a breeding area at one  
20 point in time. I know I've asked that question in the  
21 past when I was on the advisory committee. So I just  
22 was wondering what the idea is that Fish and Game.....

23  
24 MR. OYOUMICK: All of the above.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: .....has in store for  
27 what the plans are.

28  
29 MR. DUNKER: You know, as with anything  
30 else, I mean our.....

31  
32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I guess the question  
33 is maybe I make it more -- what's the ideal bear  
34 population per square mile? Is there any -- and does  
35 that come into play? I know it did in the past. I  
36 guess that's a question. I don't know if you're  
37 dealing with that now.

38  
39 MR. DUNKER: Yeah, that's a tricky one  
40 to pin down for sure in terms of what's an ideal  
41 density to be shooting for and things like that. It  
42 ultimately just depends on, you know, other values and  
43 things like that associated with the -- you know, if  
44 that's what we're looking for is to -- I don't think  
45 the intent here is to establish any kind of a trophy  
46 bear population or anything like that. Sustainable  
47 harvest is certainly a priority moving forward.

48  
49 All of our harvest objectives and

50

1 things like that are intended to maintain a viable  
2 population of bears on the landscape. I don't think  
3 anybody would want to see them completely eradicated  
4 from the Seward Peninsula or anything like that. So  
5 small incremental steps to continue to liberalize bear  
6 regulations with an eye towards sustainable harvest is  
7 probably maybe the most -- about as concise as I can  
8 get in terms of long-term objectives for bear  
9 management on the Seward Peninsula.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I know it was a hard  
12 question, Bill. You've not been around here very long,  
13 so I appreciate your answers.

14

15 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ted.

18

19 MR. KATCHEAK: One more question for  
20 Bill. Are you aware of areas where bears den?  
21 Sometime back in 1965 I was talking to Carl Grauvogel,  
22 who was area biologist for Fish and Game. He told me  
23 that one time that I questioned about the bear  
24 population and where they den, he said that there was a  
25 denning area south and east of St. Michael. I think it  
26 was like 10 or 20 miles 300 bears would den every year.  
27 I'm not sure if that's true or not. Are there any dens  
28 like that in this area that you're aware of?

29

30 MR. DUNKER: Not in terms of any  
31 concentrated denning locations like it seems you're  
32 referring to. In 2015, we worked cooperatively with  
33 the Park Service to do a brown bear survey in the  
34 central portion of the Seward Peninsula. One of the  
35 things that we were looking for as a part of that  
36 survey was dens. It certainly seems like they  
37 concentrate that sort of behavior in higher elevation  
38 areas.

39

40 But we have seen them denning  
41 everywhere from on the coast here at lower elevations  
42 all the way up into the mountains of the Bendelebens  
43 and the Darbys and the Sawtooths as well. So it seems  
44 pretty variable. I don't know. I'm not aware of any  
45 hot spots for denning activity like you're referring  
46 to, but it certainly seems to be pretty varied across  
47 the landscape in terms of where they prefer to den.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Clarence.

50

1 MR. SACCHEUS: I want to mention about  
2 bears I'm worried that we're having in Kwik River and  
3 also in Tubutulik River. We've got some -- we call  
4 them gypsum (ph) lakes. I'm talking about east of the  
5 Darbys. Gypsum lakes. We call them gypsum lakes,  
6 call them dog salmon because the fish got big teeth  
7 just like dogs and they go up the streams and they  
8 start migrating up to the lakes, then three lakes.  
9 We've got three lakes almost west of the Kwik River and  
10 we've got another one that's called the Moon River, the  
11 Kwik River. That's where all the dog salmon will go up  
12 too. There's another stream that goes east from Kwik  
13 River and that's probably the -- then dog salmon go up  
14 that stream and develop a lot of bears up there fall  
15 time.

16  
17 Not only that, after the bears eat the  
18 dog salmon there will be a lot of fish, thousands of  
19 them and they mill around there until about last part  
20 of November. That's when the fish decline. They go  
21 out and eat the blueberries. They love blueberries  
22 too. You could go from Elim to that Quinhagak River  
23 around Hot Spring area and south of the Darbys on them  
24 hills that kind of slope down toward Quinhagak there's  
25 so much bears you could see -- if you stand on this  
26 side of Quinhagak River and on the other side, on them  
27 slopes, there's so much blueberries you could see the  
28 color just like these guys' jackets over there. On top  
29 of that you could count bears up on that slope eating.  
30 After they eat salmon on the river they go up and they  
31 eat blueberries.

32  
33 In Kwik River same way. There's a lot  
34 of blueberries on both sides of the river where them  
35 salmon go up and spawn in that river. That's where all  
36 the bears -- we've got 316,000 timber up there. Most  
37 of the bears when they go to sleep, they all lay on  
38 them little creeks that flow east of the Darbys and  
39 east of the Quinhagak River and mountains. There's  
40 bears in their den on the east side. They don't go on  
41 the other side.

42  
43 The sun when it rise from the east it  
44 comes up and it shines right where the bear dens are in  
45 them little creeks. So the bear population east of the  
46 Darbys that's kind of critical to our moose population.  
47 We get a lot of snow, like we got snow up there now in  
48 the east of the Darbys. We've got a lot of snow. This  
49 year I'm kind of worried about those moose, cow moose.

50

1 They mate during the fall and they get one little calf,  
2 sometimes they get three, sometimes two, sometimes one.  
3  
4

5 When that snow in the daytime when the  
6 sun is shining, it shines right on the -- it melts that  
7 snow daytime and nighttime, when it gets cold, when the  
8 sun set, it gets real cold, that snow gets hard like  
9 this, crushed down. The bears can walk on that real  
10 easy, but you should see the moose. Like if a cow  
11 moose is there in the valley with maybe two calves or  
12 three calves, one calf, those bears are -- they could  
13 go right up to it on top of that snow and they could  
14 kill the mother and three calves. That's how come our  
15 population always go down.  
16

17 Fish and Wildlife was wondering how  
18 come the muskox -- when we brought them up here. They  
19 were wondering how come those muskox are increasing and  
20 the moose population is declining. So we've got to  
21 blame the bears. There's more than one time we watched  
22 a herd of muskox when there's green grass growing on  
23 the ground. There was little calves. A whole bunch of  
24 muskox got little calves.  
25

26 There will be one bear on south side  
27 and one bear on the north side. When they see a bear  
28 coming around, all they have to do is make one woof.  
29 They just make one sound like that and automatically  
30 the little calves stand up and the mothers and the big  
31 bulls make a circle automatically. They just  
32 automatically the little calves go in the middle. Them  
33 bears -- we watched them one time a bear was trying to  
34 get in to those little calves. They want to eat a good  
35 meal too, but the big bulls and their mothers they keep  
36 them bears out.  
37

38 So the moose population always decline  
39 and the muskox population just keep rising. The bears  
40 can't eat them. They can't get to the calves. That's  
41 how I found out east of the Darbys. There's a lot of  
42 bears and hardly any moose.  
43

44 Thank you.  
45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Clarence.  
47 A lesson in Mother Nature. I'll entertain one more  
48 question because we're getting close to around 3:00  
49 o'clock when we've got somebody else calling in here.  
50

1 Anybody else.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It doesn't look like  
6 it. Bill, thanks. Just to let you know I wasn't  
7 trying to be critical. I've kind of made it, as I've  
8 been on this Council, do be -- we like to have Fish and  
9 Game come and talk to us, so we don't want to beat up  
10 on you. That wasn't what I was trying to do. I was  
11 trying to get answers. That's what it's all about here  
12 because this is probably one of the only forums that we  
13 can do that. So I wasn't trying to beat on you. I put  
14 you on the spot and I was thinking, darn it, I didn't  
15 mean it that way. But thank you.

16

17

MR. DUNKER: No problem.

18

19

Thanks for having me.

20

21

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks.

22

23

(Pause)

24

25

26

CHAIRMAN GREEN: We have an opportunity  
before we get a call in here.....

27

28

MS. DEATHERAGE: She's here.

29

30

31

32

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, excuse me. She  
snuck right in the door. Well, come on up. You're  
welcome to.

33

34

(Pause)

35

36

37

38

39

CHAIRMAN GREEN: I guess people thought  
I was calling a recess. I just ran for coffee. Go  
ahead and start. Everybody can hear in here. I think  
there's people online that are waiting to hear.

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

MS. BELL: Okay, Mr. Chairman. My name  
is Jennifer Bell. I'm with Alaska Department of Fish  
and Game. I'm the research biologist there. I was  
asked by Karen Hyer and Karen Deatherage to speak about  
Unalakleet River Weir. I appreciate that when salmon  
come up.....

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm sorry. I just  
realized that Leland is not here. He had a question

1 about that and you're going to talk about something  
2 that he -- I want to make sure that we have Council  
3 Members back at the table. Everybody ran away.

4  
5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Illegitimately.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: They're bad kids.

8  
9 (Laughter)

10  
11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I appreciate your  
12 patience. Where is Leland?

13  
14 (Pause)

15  
16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. You have the  
17 floor.

18  
19 MS. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I  
20 was saying, I'm Jennifer Bell with Alaska Department of  
21 Fish and Game. I'm the research biologist for the  
22 region. I was asked to speak about Unalakleet River  
23 Weir, so that's what I'm going to try and do. I  
24 provided a handout that has a few tables on it.

25  
26 The first table is basically an  
27 overview of what happens on Unalakleet River within the  
28 Unalakleet River drainage. That includes North River  
29 as well as the mainstem. I'm giving you total  
30 escapement. There's also harvest and that's within  
31 what we consider Unalakleet River fish for a total run  
32 and then we estimate exploitation, which is just how  
33 much of the harvest is taken as a portion of the total  
34 run. So that's the first graph. I can come back and  
35 explain a little bit more of these, but to just give  
36 you a quick overview.

37  
38 The second table is the subsistence  
39 harvest by species within the Unalakleet Subdistrict.  
40 So that's everything that comes out by permit that we  
41 account for in Unalakleet Subdistrict.

42  
43 The third table is the commercial  
44 harvest by species within the Unalakleet Subdistrict.

45  
46 The fourth table is the age composition  
47 that we get from the weir, which I'll speak to in just  
48 a few minutes.

49  
50

1                   And then I've included a couple  
2 pictures of what the weir actually looks like. Figure  
3 1 is a schematic of the weir just because it's really  
4 hard to actually picture what this honking piece of  
5 equipment is in the river.  
6

7                   And then you've got Figure 2, a picture  
8 from 2010 and that was the first year of the weir. 2016  
9 is the second picture and shows you a couple upgrades.  
10 Again, I'll speak to that.  
11

12                  Figure 4 and 5 are being able to go  
13 across the river via the boat gate. Again, that's in  
14 2010. Then we have a couple of that same boat gate in  
15 2016 to kind of show you what we've done to upgrade  
16 over the years.  
17

18                  So that's going to be the handout.  
19 We'll talk about that a little bit more as we go along.  
20 Specifically the weir is funded through the Office of  
21 Subsistence Management through Fish and Wildlife and  
22 it's a cooperative project between Fish and Game,  
23 Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation, Native  
24 Village of Unalakleet.  
25

26                  The land that we have our field camp on  
27 is owned by Unalakleet Native Corporation and BLM is  
28 also a participant and the ANSEP program, which is  
29 Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program, which is  
30 a program that takes students straight from high school  
31 or in school depending on which part of the program  
32 you're in, and encourages them to be in the sciences or  
33 the engineering part of education.  
34

35                  Jim Menard, who is the area manager,  
36 usually signs up and gets an intern for that program  
37 and that intern goes around and helps out at all of our  
38 different projects so they can learn about salmon  
39 management, about the region. A lot of times it is a  
40 local hire or local person from the region. I think  
41 last year it was somebody from Gambell or Savoonga. So  
42 he takes those people on as interns and then brings  
43 them to all the various projects.  
44

45                  So this is a big project for a lot of  
46 cooperators and I apologize if I've missed anyone or  
47 over or understated their involvement because it is  
48 just a whole big cooperative endeavor that can't  
49 actually be done without all these pieces together.  
50

1                   It was started in 2010 as this idea of  
2 trying to get at Unalakleet River drainage-wide  
3 escapement. For years there had been a tower on the  
4 North River, but the tower comes with its own issues;  
5 high water, you can't count, funding issues. It wasn't  
6 always a viable option. Just a lot of different things  
7 with having a tower that made our estimates of  
8 Unalakleet River drainage problematic.

9  
10                   We also did telemetry studies on  
11 Unalakleet River and you can see -- the way to look at  
12 this is everywhere there's actually a total escapement  
13 before 2010, so there's only three values in this Table  
14 1, is when we attempted telemetry studies. So what we  
15 did was tag fish at the mouth of the river and then  
16 estimate how many went up the North River and how many  
17 went up the Unalakleet. I won't go into all of the math  
18 behind it. Half I understand, half I don't anyway.  
19 But you get an estimate of what would go up the  
20 mainstem of the Unalakleet. We added those together  
21 and you get that 11,000.

22  
23                   So we did that for four years. We did  
24 that in '97, '98 and then again to verify it in 2009  
25 and '10. Of course, remember I said that the weir  
26 started in 2010, so we do have duplicate values. We  
27 have telemetry work from 2010, but we also have a weir  
28 estimate from 2010.

29  
30                   The telemetry estimate we thought we  
31 were good. The telemetry estimates were all really,  
32 really close in the first three years of it, '97, '98  
33 and 2009. It even says it in here, if you look at sub-  
34 note -- I think it's E. I got new contacts and I'm  
35 still trying to figure them out. But they're all  
36 between 30 and 40 percent we're saying of the run is  
37 North River and the other portion of that run goes up  
38 the mainstem. That's how we figure those out.

39  
40                   Well, in 2010, that number switched  
41 between 50 and 55 percent, so that's quite a big  
42 difference from this very consistent number that we had  
43 in the previous studies. So we started thinking, well,  
44 what happens if we're only doing a study once every 10  
45 years, twice every 10 years. Maybe there's a lot more  
46 variability in those numbers than we can actually pick  
47 up in a two-year study. Telemetry studies are pretty  
48 labor intensive.

49  
50



1                   So that was one of the reasons why  
2 we're thinking, hey, maybe a weir would be good and we  
3 get a better idea of what's going on on the Unalakleet  
4 and mainstem. So we put in a proposal for funding.  
5 OSM funded it. It's been operating. It's a more  
6 stable platform than a tower. A tower, as I said, you  
7 can have a lot of issues with high water, turbid water.

8  
9  
10                  A weir tends to be just beefier and the  
11 Unalakleet Weir is very beefy. It's called a floating  
12 weir or a resistance board weir. A lot of the weirs  
13 that we have in smaller rivers, particularly around  
14 here, are just picket weirs. One person can go and  
15 carry a bunch of pickets and put a weir in. This is a  
16 labor of love. It probably takes, I don't know, five  
17 to ten people about a week to put it in and it sits in  
18 there from mid June to mid August.

19  
20                  As you can see from the schematic, it  
21 floats. It floats in the river. The PVC that's  
22 creating the blockage floats in the river and the water  
23 passes over it going this way and you've got this end  
24 that sticks up and that's what you're seeing in these  
25 pictures. You're seeing this very end of this floating  
26 weir and imagining you're seeing down into the flow of  
27 water. There's about 10 feet worth of picket going  
28 down to the bottom. Does that make sense?

29  
30                  (No comments)

31  
32                  MS. BELL: Probably not. And because  
33 it's a community effort and it's a big river and  
34 there's a lot of access to it, we've endeavored to go  
35 into the community to try and understand what the needs  
36 are, how we can alter this weir, how we can make it so  
37 that it satisfies some sort of fishery management, but  
38 also doesn't impinge on the resource access that is  
39 required on that river. I guess there's a hunt that  
40 happens later on in the season.

41  
42                  For our purposes we monitor chinook, is  
43 the main reason for this, but we also then get numbers  
44 for pink and chum. Then we typically pull it out well  
45 before the coho salmon run is ever fully enumerated.  
46 So any numbers that you see for coho salmon here based  
47 on the weir definitely just beginning of the run  
48 estimates.

49  
50

1                   We started in 2010. Typically when you  
2 pass fish through a weir you have an opening obviously  
3 to allow fish to come through and you want to put that  
4 in the deepest part of the river generally because  
5 that's where most of the fish -- there's fish milling,  
6 but when fish want to go through the weir they're  
7 generally going to go through the deepest part.

8  
9                   So we had one, it's called a fish trap,  
10 and you can pass salmon through. You open the weir,  
11 you pass salmon through that trap. We had one in the  
12 heaviest part of the river as you can see in Figure 2.  
13 We had one trap in 2010 and what was happening was if  
14 the river got too big, it was dangerous to be out there  
15 or you couldn't see anything because the water was too  
16 deep.

17  
18                   I believe this was in 2014 that we  
19 actually amended this, but you can see in the 2016  
20 picture we ended up putting two traps on there. That  
21 second trap is much closer to shore, so it's more  
22 easily accessible. The water is a bit shallower and we  
23 can count a lot longer and a lot more than we could  
24 when we just had one trap in the middle of the river.

25  
26                   When the weir is open, every hour  
27 somebody goes out there and checks. If there are fish  
28 hanging out, they keep that weir open until no fish are  
29 passing and they keep track of them on tally counters,  
30 just little thumb counters. It's open every hour and  
31 it operates 24 hours a day.

32  
33                   As long as it can be open and it's  
34 physically safe for somebody to be out there, then we  
35 open it. The crew on the ground makes the  
36 determination of whether it's either too dangerous to  
37 be on it or the water is just too turbid and you  
38 couldn't see fish passing through anyway.

39  
40                   The other thing that was, as I  
41 mentioned, an issue was the idea of maintaining access  
42 for those people that wanted to use the river. In a  
43 typical picket weir, what we have is just a bunch of  
44 like gates if you will and they're all rock-bagged in  
45 so there's no leaks, but then you move those gates and  
46 somebody with a boat can come through or you take your  
47 boat on land and portage it around the weir. So it's  
48 never a workable solution particularly if you're on a  
49 big river like this.

50

1                   So we made a boat gate that was  
2 accessible to people -- it specifically started as  
3 people that were in jet boats had the easiest time of  
4 going over this because, obviously, the jet boat didn't  
5 have to worry about propping the weir. We didn't have  
6 to worry about that.

7  
8                   You can see in Figures 4 and 5 these  
9 are just a couple examples, again from 2010, of people  
10 navigating that. Jet boats had a bit easier time of it  
11 simply because they're jet boats, but these people are  
12 basically pulling up their motors and then pulling on a  
13 rope across the weir.

14  
15                  In talking with people, in talking with  
16 residents and boat owners, we have altered that and  
17 that has been one of those things that gets altered  
18 almost every year. We've tried to beef up that boat  
19 gate and make it so that anyone going over it can go  
20 over it relatively easy. I'm not saying that it's  
21 completely perfect, but I think we have come a long  
22 way.

23  
24                  In 2016 -- again, these are all things  
25 that have happened in the last -- the picture is in  
26 2016, but the boat gate was adjusted, I believe, in '14  
27 and '15. You can see that the boat gate is not well  
28 marked. Unfortunately with 2016 there was tons of pink  
29 salmon, so this weir right now, these pictures that  
30 you're seeing, are actually when the pink salmon are  
31 doing it in or compromising our weir.

32  
33                  What happens is they go across the weir  
34 or they go through the weir, they get to the other side  
35 and there's a building of reds. They're kicking up a  
36 whole bunch of gravel and that gravel is coming back  
37 and landing on the pickets of the weir and it's sinking  
38 the weir. So somebody has to physically go out there  
39 and shovel it off and move it off the weir. So there  
40 was, I think, what, 1.5 million pinks. So it was just  
41 a phenomenal amount of pinks up there that they hadn't  
42 seen. What these pictures are represent also a bunch  
43 of pinks in there.

44  
45                  MR. OYOUMICK: They came all at once?

46  
47                  MS. BELL: They did. They literally  
48 did. They were like, well, we're not here, now we're  
49 here. So that's why it doesn't really look like it's  
50

1 above the water, but typically that boat gate now is  
2 delineated by those cones. There is still a pool  
3 there. There is a bell there so that if you do find  
4 yourself in a pinch or a bind, one of the crew can come  
5 out.

6  
7 This is probably taken in early June,  
8 so the light system is not set up yet, but there are  
9 lights on this system as soon as it's necessary. They  
10 count via light, so they actually have battery hook-ups  
11 for lights and then this boat gate is also highlighted  
12 with lights.

13  
14 Again these are all things that we've  
15 tried to improve upon and we're continuing to improve  
16 upon as we think about it. We have a fantastic  
17 technician that -- give him a problem and he's dynamite  
18 at trying to solve it.

19  
20 The ultimate goal for us as Fish and  
21 Game is to establish escapement goals, which you may or  
22 may not be familiar with. It's generally how we manage  
23 fisheries as whether we've met an escapement goal in an  
24 individual river. We also do it with  
25 harvest statistics in the absence of escapement goals.

26  
27 Ultimately what we'd like to do is be  
28 able to use this weir data in conjunction with the  
29 tower still running. We'd like to use those two sets  
30 of data to establish individual escapement goals or  
31 drainage-wide escapement goal. It would depend on the  
32 quality of the data. In order to do that you need at  
33 minimum 10 years of data. But I've also seen us go  
34 through the process with minimum 10 years of data and  
35 they're like it's just not enough good data because not  
36 every year is a solid count, right.

37  
38 You have -- like you can see here or  
39 last year, you know, the weir went out the 21st of  
40 July. It was submerged and then it stayed submerged  
41 until like the beginning of September. So we stopped  
42 counting the 21st of July, so we don't consider that a  
43 complete year, so we would not use that in any kind of  
44 analysis. So you want good data for a minimum of 10  
45 years and then we'll start looking at it in terms of  
46 how can we use that to set escapement goals and to help  
47 manage the fisheries.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Leland.

50

1 MR. OYOUNICK: We just don't know why  
2 we need a weir, but I guess we're finding out. Some  
3 people don't like it. Some do. It puts people to  
4 work, bottom line.

5  
6 MS. BELL: Right. I think that's  
7 definitely important because there are a lot of locals  
8 that are working between the tower and the weir. We  
9 have a lot of cooperation between those two projects.

10  
11 The main objective is to figure out  
12 what the  
13 escapement is to the whole system so that we can better  
14 manage. We can open up subsistence, we can open up  
15 commercial, we can open any fishery, but as long as we  
16 are missing that large component of what actually goes  
17 up the Unalakleet River Weir, we are kind of -- I don't  
18 want to say managing blind, but we're missing a key  
19 piece of information.

20  
21 So that weir is providing that  
22 information. Hopefully once we get everything ironed  
23 out it will provide information consistently with few  
24 issues like miscounts and stuff like that.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It looks like Ted has  
27 a question.

28  
29 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. Jennifer.  
30 It seems to me after listening to what you said about  
31 the weir and how those people have to shovel off the  
32 rocks and gravel off the weir, it seems to me that  
33 where the weir is located is where they start to spawn  
34 and that's why my thought is that's why you keep  
35 working on the weir because it's where spawning starts  
36 or where the spawning ends in the lower part of the  
37 river.

38  
39 MS. BELL: Mr. Chair. That's a valid  
40 point. What I would say is typically we do not see  
41 that many pink salmon, so we don't know what the effect  
42 of -- they've never seen that in -- of course, not the  
43 huge long history of this weir. It's only been  
44 operating since 2010, but we haven't seen that many  
45 pink salmon.

46  
47 Based on the telemetry work that was  
48 done, with radio telemetry they also tracked chinook to  
49 their spawning grounds. They can do that with

50

1 receivers in the rivers. They also fly the river, so  
2 they have this idea of the final -- and actually I'm  
3 remiss because I should have put that map in here. You  
4 can see that the weir is well below any chinook  
5 spawning grounds. That was one of the reasons.

6  
7 You need a particular set up, which is  
8 why these weirs don't exist everywhere. You need a  
9 particular set up for this weir to work and to be  
10 functioning and for you to be able to put it in with  
11 normal people. You don't need pile drivers and all  
12 that stuff. So there's a particular set of criteria.  
13 This patch on the Unalakleet River met that criteria  
14 and was also well below the spawning sites of chinook  
15 salmon, which was really the concern.

16  
17 I'm sorry I can't speak to how far down  
18 pinks spawn other than this -- they've never had to  
19 maintain this weir this hardcore. But I understand  
20 what you're saying, that there could be a pink spawning  
21 area in the area around the weir.

22  
23 MR. OYOUMICK: How far up is the  
24 farthest spawning area for those kings, do you know?

25  
26 MS. BELL: That is an excellent  
27 question and I do not know and now I'm like just  
28 kicking myself because I don't have that map. No. I  
29 think it's.....

30  
31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Can you share that  
32 with him after?

33  
34 MS. BELL: Yeah, absolutely.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We're through tomorrow  
37 too.

38  
39 MS. BELL: Okay. I can send it to.....

40  
41 MS. DEATHERAGE: Me.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Send it to Karen.

44  
45 MS. BELL: How about I just print it  
46 and bring it. I can do that, right?

47  
48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We'd appreciate that.

49  
50

1 MS. BELL: You always have your  
2 brilliant ideas after, right? But, yeah, it's a  
3 distance. It's definitely a distance to the spawning  
4 area for the kings. It's not just like, you know,  
5 around the bend.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Are you tagging them,  
8 is that what you're doing? Oh, sorry.

9  
10 MR. OYOUMICK: There's some areas that  
11 have creeks that go all the way to the hills. I just  
12 wondered about one area. There's one area called  
13 Salyuk (ph). People -- local -- they call them locals,  
14 but they call it Monumentio (ph). In that area it's  
15 called Salyuk. There's a slough that goes all the way  
16 to the hills there, so I was just curious about that.

17  
18 MS. BELL: Yeah, like I said, the map  
19 that I will get you is the telemetry map, so they have  
20 their final destinations where they last detected those  
21 tags of the chinook salmon that they did in, I believe,  
22 '97, '98 and 2009. That's how they decided where the  
23 weir was going to go to be well enough below that  
24 spawning area to not impact the spawning of chinook  
25 salmon. But I'm not familiar with what you're talking  
26 about, but that's my lack of knowledge, not anything  
27 else.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think we have a  
30 question from Brandon for you, Jennifer.

31  
32 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
33 Thanks, Jennifer, for presenting. I just had a couple  
34 questions. The second one I'll wait until everybody  
35 else -- if they have any other questions about the  
36 weir.

37  
38 Looking at the pictures here, just kind  
39 of seeing there's -- especially on the Unalakleet River  
40 it seems to be plagued with this issue, that issue.  
41 Wouldn't a better, more viable option be to go to  
42 sonar?

43  
44 MR. OYOUMICK: They want to get their  
45 hands on the fish.

46  
47 MS. BELL: Well, it's a valid point and  
48 what Leland said is also true. Sonar also requires you  
49 to apportion, which means that you have to have  
50

1 somebody up there seining, somebody basically saying,  
2 okay, if we count this many fish through the sonar,  
3 what is the proportion of that. Sonar also has its  
4 needs to be able to be effective in a river. I think  
5 for the options that were available at the time, sonar  
6 was not considered an option because of the shape of  
7 the river. I could get into the trees on this, but  
8 sonar has its own special needs as well and I  
9 understand that. Then there's also the apportionment.

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One of the things we have been  
successful at it's much easier on a weir to do than it  
is even on a tower. A tower has the same idea. In  
order to grab fish, you have to go out and seine fish.  
Where the weir, they're coming to you essentially. So  
we've been able to get a lot of chinook samples that  
have otherwise not been achieved at even the North  
River tower through seining just because seining is  
really hard to do on bit rivers.

So, yeah, like in Table 4 that's all  
data that's been collected from the weir.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody else got a  
question.

MR. SEETOT: I do have a question. You  
mentioned about cleaning up the gravel from the weir.  
I know there are many species that go through the river  
systems in any given area. Do the different salmon  
species spawn in certain areas, therefore creating your  
weir gravel buildup?

Because I do know in some places  
traveling in the out-country back home where the creeks  
are just only a couple inches deep and not so wide that  
I've seen pink salmon way up that I wouldn't even  
believe that they would also see trout that are 50, 60  
miles from the river mouth which they enter and going  
to another river system.

My main question was spawning areas.  
Do the pink salmon spawn here, then the chum, then the  
coho, then the chinook, something like that, where it  
would create your weir problem?

The other one is are there many beavers  
that go through the weir that would damage your



1 protective system?

2

3

4 MS. BELL: Thank you. Good questions.  
5 Mr. Chair. Some do actually. Different species spawn  
6 in different conditions. I think pinks are any port in  
7 a storm, right. Oh, look, there's some gravel, I'm  
8 going to spawn here. Where kings are much more  
9 particular. They like a fast water, bigger rocks is  
10 what I've been told. I think we're pretty sure we  
11 understand why they spawn where they spawn, but they're  
12 not spawning where we think they spawn sometimes. So I  
13 think we can speak in generalities about where they  
14 spawn, but they do require -- they do enjoy different  
15 characteristics.

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1 (Laughter)

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3 MS. BELL: I'll work on that for you.  
4 How about that? What do you want me to say there?

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. Did  
9 you have anything additional.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody else.

14

15 Go ahead, Brandon.

16

17 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
18 Earlier I brought up salmon flushing. I made kind of a  
19 teeny attempt to explain it, but if you could explain  
20 that in more detail way better than I could probably.

21

22 MS. BELL: Salmon flushing?

23

24 MR. AHMASUK: Salmon flushing where  
25 they enter the river, they say, hey, this isn't where I  
26 want to be, they go out, go to another river.

27

28 MS. BELL: Oh, oh, just like straying.

29

30 MR. AHMASUK: Yeah.

31

32 MS. BELL: Okay. So yeah. Okay, so  
33 salmon straying is this idea that they are going into a  
34 river -- I guess there's two different ways to look at  
35 this. Salmon are going into a river and they were  
36 never meant to be there, so they leave and they go find  
37 the river that they're supposed to be in. That's not  
38 considered straying, right, that's just, hey, we're  
39 checking it out.

40

41 MR. OYOUNICK: Is that why some of  
42 those kings show up really red?

43

44 MS. BELL: I don't know about that.  
45 It's hard to say and speak in particulars and  
46 specifics. This idea that salmon do check out other  
47 streams, we know this. What would be the concern with  
48 a project is if that project is low in the river, then  
49 a salmon -- particularly a weir, right. It wouldn't

50

1 happen with a tower but a weir as a barrier.

2

3 So if that salmon is low in the river  
4 and it's still like, well, I'm not really sure if I  
5 need to be in this river, you pass it through the weir,  
6 it doesn't come back out alive, right. Very rarely  
7 unless there's a force of nature that takes that weir  
8 out. That fish is now in that river, which would be  
9 considered straying, right, because that fish did not  
10 belong in that river. It gets caught up in that weir.

11

12 Most of our projects, particularly if  
13 they're a weir, are above areas where you would expect  
14 the fish to come in and move out. Kwiniuk River is  
15 very low in the watershed. In fact, the project on  
16 Kwiniuk River is a tower. It's tidally influenced.  
17 That's how low it is in the watershed. There are  
18 probably fish that are counted up. Those fish are also  
19 counted down and there are probably fish that go in  
20 there, sniff around, say, hey, this isn't my river and  
21 they leave. But you very rarely will have a weir low  
22 enough in the watershed where a fish would get trapped  
23 behind it. That wouldn't necessarily be in that  
24 system.

25

26 Does that make sense?

27

28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Brandon.

29

30 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
31 Could you give us some examples of like how far the  
32 salmon has gone off course? Like it entered the river  
33 and then it was recorded in a different river?

34

35 MS. BELL: As luck could have it, I  
36 could. I can speak to that in Nome River or in Nome  
37 Subdistrict. We just did a tagging study, an acoustic  
38 tagging study, and all of our acoustic receivers were  
39 well below the projects in Eldorado, Nome and Snake,  
40 but we did have fish go in, hit those receivers, and  
41 we're talking probably, I don't know, I would say one  
42 to two miles up the river. I'm not very good with  
43 miles, so that might be overstating it.

44

45 We had fish go up, hit the receivers in  
46 the Nome River and then they're over in the Eldorado  
47 River and they actually stay -- they hit those  
48 receivers and they're never detected again, which would  
49 say that they actually stayed in the Eldorado River.

50

1 So something like that you might have. These are very  
2 small rivers, so you might expect the straying or the  
3 incidences of mixing between rivers would be a little  
4 bit higher.

5  
6 This is maybe my own opinion, which I  
7 probably shouldn't offer here, but I'm thinking that  
8 once you're 25 miles up the Sinuk you've committed to  
9 the Sinuk and you're not saying, wow, I made a mistake  
10 here. But, you know, five or six miles up the Nome or  
11 the Snake River, much smaller rivers, you might get up  
12 that far before you're like, well, this isn't really  
13 what I was looking for. Within a subdistrict we have  
14 evidence of fish going in one river and then ending up  
15 in another river.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Elmer.

18  
19 MR. SEETOT: The chinook from Norton  
20 Sound or Unalakleet River and the ones from Kuzitrin  
21 River are they pretty much in the same area while  
22 they're growing up from small fish to big fish or  
23 pretty hard to answer that?

24  
25 MS. BELL: I can't speak to that. I  
26 don't know. They're still trying to do a lot of work  
27 in the ocean and figure out where fish have originated  
28 genetically but I can't tell you where that happens or  
29 how that happens.

30  
31 MR. SEETOT: I would assume with the  
32 bycatch that they get around Bering Sea for these  
33 salmon products and they talk about a lot of salmon  
34 bycatch that they just throw overboard I would assume  
35 that they would have an inkling of where these salmon  
36 are coming from if they do have the ID stuff on them,  
37 like sensors or something right within the fish.

38  
39 MS. BELL: Sure. And they do for some.  
40 I know that Fort Yukon releases tagged chinook salmon  
41 and we have -- again, this is beyond the scope of my --  
42 so it's very limited experience. But they have released  
43 tagged chum salmon and we have recaptured tagged chum  
44 salmon and they are coded wire tagged. But we don't  
45 take Unalakleet smolt at this point. We don't tag any  
46 of the other stocks.

47  
48 So in terms of bycatch what they're  
49 trying to do is resolve genetics and they're getting  
50

1 better at it. It's just genetics isn't as bulletproof  
2 as everybody would like it to be at this moment. So  
3 they've done a lot of work with chum and it's hard to  
4 distinguish chum all up and down the west coast of  
5 Alaska. There's just so many chum stocks it's hard to  
6 differentiate. They can't find the key difference.  
7 That's not even a word, but the key.....

8  
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It works.

10  
11 (Laughter)

12  
13 MS. BELL: Yeah, the key thing that  
14 differentiates all those stocks. They're working  
15 really hard at it for chinook. They're just not there  
16 yet. It will eventually come. It's just not there  
17 yet.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody else.

20  
21 (No comments)

22  
23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You know, it's  
24 interesting about the genetics. It's been going on  
25 since the '90s. Lisa and Jim Seeb did one and all the  
26 big uproar with the chum intercept, Area M. That's  
27 what generated it. They weren't able to specify which  
28 river the salmon came out of. They were trying to get  
29 it to the specific rivers even with this western --  
30 what's that called again? Western.....

31  
32 MS. BELL: WASSIP.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: WASSIP. They tried to  
35 do it again and it didn't really define a river that  
36 these salmon were hatched in and returning to.

37  
38 One of the other things, the aspect of  
39 straying, which was not a real opinion of Fish and  
40 Game I think in the '90s, it became so after that, was  
41 that there's been so much straying that you can't be  
42 definite where a run comes from.

43  
44 You know, you see samples taken that  
45 show the Noatak, the Pilgrim River. You know, they're  
46 just sporadic. I guess the thought is that the salmon  
47 runs are -- you know, the 10,000 years they're not  
48 settled down where they really want to go sometimes. So  
49 straying is a real deal and it causes a lot of problems

50

1 in that genetic study.

2

3 Anyway, if there's nobody else with any  
4 other questions, I would say thank you very much for  
5 coming. It's been a while since I've seen anybody from  
6 the ADF&G Fisheries Department. I really appreciate  
7 that you're here.

8

9 MS. BELL: Thank you for having me.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Pass it on.

12

13 MS. BELL: And I will get you that map.  
14 How long are you guys on for today?

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There's a public  
17 hearing at 5:30 to 7:30, so we'll be here. Somebody  
18 will be here if you want to drop it off then. It's up  
19 to you. But we'll be here tomorrow morning too also.

20

21 MS. BELL: Okay. I'll go back and  
22 print it off tonight and bring it back.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you very much,  
25 Jennifer.

26

27 MS. BELL: Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think we've got Fish  
30 and Game pretty well aired out, so let's move on to the  
31 Federal agencies. I'd entertain Mr. Tom Sparks to the  
32 table if he was so.....

33

34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Anything but moose  
35 in.....

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We're not talking  
38 about moose. We're just talking about BLM at this  
39 point, folks. Come on up, young man.

40

41 MR. SPARKS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
42 notice that introduction of the young man. He didn't  
43 come with me, so we'll have to work on that a little  
44 bit.

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 MR. SPARKS: Appreciate the opportunity  
49 to work with you guys again. I see a couple new

50

1 members, so congratulations to Mr. Ahmasuk and Mr.  
2 Oyoumick. Good to see you on board.

3  
4 Just got back from Unit 23, the meeting  
5 in Kotzebue. Just a few things there I wanted to  
6 mention. There was talk there about the two RACs  
7 working a little closer together, so I wanted to pass  
8 that on to you. The board there wanted to extend that  
9 closure in 23 for non-Federally qualified subsistence  
10 user for one more year. Made some alignments with some  
11 of the moose seasons. Wanted to close the Federal  
12 moose season there in 23 for non-Federally qualified  
13 users.

14  
15 There was also discussion about bears  
16 and more liberalization there and some of the beaver  
17 issues. So there's a lot of I think continuity between  
18 the two regions, so I look forward to getting a little  
19 more involved there.

20  
21 With BLM we've got some personnel  
22 changes too like the State. Maybe not as drastic, but  
23 as many of you know we have a new Administration and  
24 we're on a Federal hiring freeze currently, so we're  
25 not sure how long that's going to impact our agency,  
26 but we do have a new field manager. Our last one, Alan  
27 Bittner, was replaced by Bonnie Million. She just got  
28 on board this week actually, arrived in Anchorage. I'm  
29 still the Associate Field Manager for Anchorage.

30  
31 Our district is really large. It goes  
32 all the way to Kivalina to the north and it goes south  
33 all the way down through the Bristol Bay and the  
34 Kuskokwim and Yukon. So it's a really large area.

35  
36 I don't have anything prepared in  
37 writing. My computer this morning Word is getting  
38 updated, so I couldn't access it, but I know last year  
39 I gave a small little bullet points. About the same  
40 things going on. No new guides. We're still working  
41 on the Bering Sea Western Interior Land Use Plan, which  
42 is Unalakleet south, so that's ongoing. We'll be going  
43 out for public review on that again with alternatives  
44 development is still happening.

45  
46 Our local biologist has managed to stay  
47 with us since fall. Brian Ubelaker, who you met last  
48 meeting, has done real well. He's interacted with the  
49 Department of Fish and Game and done some survey work

50

1 already down in the Unalakleet area and was doing some  
2 muskox work if the weather improves.

3  
4 Other than that, BLM is still involved  
5 in various permitting activities throughout the  
6 Peninsula and to the north as well. Probably the big  
7 things you guys may hear on the radio and whatnot is we  
8 are the lead agency for the Ambler Road. Our Central  
9 Yukon Field Office will be doing that at Fairbanks, but  
10 there's a portion of that proposed road that crosses  
11 Anchorage Field Office as well. So I would anticipate  
12 we'll hear more about that project as time moves on.

13  
14 So that's really about all I had. I'd  
15 be willing to answer any questions. I did hear about  
16 some fisheries projects that involved the one in  
17 Unalakleet. I also wanted to mention the  
18 Iglutalik one, which is ongoing. We still are doing  
19 some work with the USGS out of Teller and Brevig with  
20 the red salmon runs there.

21  
22 With that I'd be happy to answer any  
23 questions that any members may have.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Elmer.

26  
27 MR. SEETOT: Is BLM still in charge of  
28 issuing permits for reindeer grazing in certain parts  
29 of Seward Peninsula or are you in charge of the whole  
30 Seward Peninsula as a whole?

31  
32 MR. SPARKS: We have a cooperative  
33 management agreement with the State of Alaska and the  
34 National Park Service and BLM. So there's 15 reindeer  
35 grazing permits and we have roughly -- it's about a  
36 third, a third, a third. Basically that agreement  
37 allowed the agencies to work together. So there's a  
38 lead agency so one reindeer herder didn't have to get a  
39 permit from the State and one from the Park Service and  
40 one from BLM.

41  
42 In short, the answer is yes, Elmer.

43  
44 MR. SEETOT: Okay. Thank you.

45  
46 MR. SPARKS: Thank you.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anyone else have a  
49 question of Tom.

50



1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Thank  
4 you very much, young man.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MR. SPARKS: Thank you very much.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: At this time I'd ask  
11 if Officer -- Officer.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I hate that acronym.  
16 It just never comes out of my mouth right. Mr. McKee.

17

18 MR. MCKEE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For  
19 the record, my name is Chris McKee. I'm the Wildlife  
20 Division Chief at the Office of Subsistence Management.  
21 I'm just here to give you guys a quick update on some  
22 staffing and a few other issues.

23

24 We did lose Ameer Howard, who was our  
25 policy coordinator at OSM. She left to take the  
26 position as the Congressional and State Liaison with  
27 External Affairs. She's still in the Regional Office,  
28 but she's no longer with OSM.

29

30 Of course you've heard all about the  
31 hiring freeze already and the position of this  
32 coordinator will only be allowed to be filled by non-  
33 competitive merit reassignment or lateral hire within  
34 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. So I can't really  
35 give you an estimate on when that position will be  
36 filled. OSM, like all the other Federal agencies, is  
37 kind of limited in how they can bring on new personnel  
38 into OSM because of that hiring freeze. Hopefully it  
39 will be sooner than later, but I can't give you any  
40 definite timeframe on when we might get her  
41 replacement.

42

43 Hilary Krieger was hired as our new  
44 administrative assistant at OSM. She came to us from  
45 the Social Security Administration in Anchorage and she  
46 does have a biological background as well. She's  
47 housed in the Wildlife Division, but she does  
48 administrative work for just about everybody in OSM.  
49 We have a tremendous amount of administrative work that

50

1 goes on on a daily basis, so we've finally become fully  
2 staffed in the Administrative Department, so hopefully  
3 that work will come out a lot more seamlessly and a lot  
4 more quickly.

5  
6 Caron McKee was hired as our new  
7 subsistence outreach coordinator. Prior to coming to  
8 OSM she worked at the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
9 as a technical writer/editor. She has also worked for  
10 BLM and also used to work at the Forest Service in  
11 Washington, D.C. She also has a bachelor's degree in  
12 Natural Resource Management from Colorado State  
13 University.

14  
15 Tom Doolittle is our new Deputy  
16 Assistant Regional Director. He comes to OSM from his  
17 position as supervisory natural resource specialist for  
18 the U.S. Forest Service in Southeast, in Prince of  
19 Wales Island. Prior to that he worked for a number of  
20 years as the Deputy Refuge Manager at Yukon Delta  
21 National Wildlife Refuge out of Bethel, so he's very  
22 familiar with Alaska issues and subsistence in  
23 particular.

24  
25 I actually just saw him in the office  
26 on last Friday, so he's here a little bit earlier than  
27 we thought, but we're really happy to have him on  
28 board. It's a really, really important position at  
29 OSM.

30  
31 So that's it for personnel issues.  
32 Just to bring up a couple things just to give you guys  
33 an update. One is the  
34 Nonrural Determination Policy. I know we've brought  
35 that before this Council at your previous meeting.  
36 Following input from the Councils, the public, tribes  
37 and ANCSA corporations, the Federal Subsistence Board  
38 formally adopted its Nonrural Determination Policy at  
39 its January 2017 regulatory meeting in Anchorage.

40  
41 The policy now provides guidance for  
42 submission of proposals to change communities to rural  
43 or nonrural status. It also provides a decision-making  
44 process for those proposals and a timeline to  
45 accomplish assessment of proposals.

46  
47 The next call for proposals to change  
48 the rural or nonrural status of communities will be  
49 announced with the call for Federal fisheries proposals  
50

1 in January of 2018.

2  
3 A little bit more on the Memorandum of  
4 Understanding between the Federal Subsistence Board and  
5 the State of Alaska. There are a few new developments  
6 on the revision of this MOU. As you might recall, the  
7 Draft MOU was presented to the Councils during the fall  
8 2016 meeting cycle. The Councils were provided  
9 opportunity for input at that time. Those comments  
10 have been recorded and additionally we've also received  
11 comments from the State of Alaska and from the various  
12 Fish and Game Advisory Committees.

13  
14 The working group, consisting of State  
15 and Federal employees, are working on the revisions to  
16 the Memorandum of Understanding will be meeting to  
17 discuss incorporating these comments and once these  
18 comments are integrated a new revision of the Draft MOU  
19 will be presented that incorporates comments from all  
20 the interested stakeholders and works out language  
21 agreements between the State and Federal participants.  
22 That revision will be presented to the Board for its  
23 approval.

24  
25 The Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
26 Program 2018 call for funding proposals opened in  
27 November of 2016 and closed on February 20th of this  
28 year. The next step in the process is proposal review  
29 and ranking by the Technical Review Committee. That  
30 will occur sometime between late February and May. The  
31 Regional Advisory Councils will receive information  
32 about the ranked proposals during the fall 2017 meeting  
33 cycle.

34  
35 At that time OSM will be requesting  
36 Council comments on the ranked proposals. The  
37 Interagency Staff Committee will also provide comments  
38 on the ranked proposals following the fall Council  
39 meetings, fall of this year. The rankings of the  
40 Technical Review Committee, the Regional Advisory  
41 Council comments and the ISC comments will be forwarded  
42 to the Federal Subsistence Board in January 2018 for  
43 their consideration and funding recommendations.

44  
45 If you have any more detailed questions  
46 about the FRMP process, you're welcome to contact  
47 Steward Cogswell, who is the Fisheries Division Chief  
48 at OSM or Jennifer Hardin, who is the Anthropology  
49 Chief at OSM as well.

50

1 That's just a quick update for me.

2  
3 I'd be happy to answer any questions if  
4 you have them.

5  
6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for your  
9 report.

10  
11 Council Members, anybody have any  
12 comments or questions.

13  
14 (No comments)

15  
16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You're free to go.  
17 Thank you very much. That doesn't mean you can get on  
18 the plane tonight.

19  
20 I think we've gotten comment from  
21 Federal agencies here in the room. With that, was  
22 there anybody online, Karen, that had anything?

23  
24 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. I would go  
25 ahead and invite anybody online, perhaps from a Federal  
26 or State agency, if they'd like to present anything to  
27 the Council.

28  
29 Thanks.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Like she said.  
32 Anybody from the State online.

33  
34 (No comments)

35  
36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody from the  
37 Federal agencies online.

38  
39 (No comments)

40  
41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. That moves  
42 us on to Native, tribal, village or other, like ANCSA  
43 corporations possibly. Anybody to make comments or  
44 bring something to the table.

45  
46 (No comments)

47  
48 MRS. KATCHEAK: I still have a comment.

49  
50

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Come on up. You're  
2 public comment, correct?

3  
4 MRS. KATCHEAK: Yeah, public comment.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. You're on your  
7 own.

8  
9 Thank you.

10  
11 MRS. KATCHEAK: I'm awful puzzled about  
12 when they always say that the Federal Subsistence Board  
13 and the State of Alaska Subsistence Board choose their  
14 members. I'm puzzled at how many of those people that  
15 are sitting on that board from the Federal Subsistence  
16 Board and from the State Subsistence Board are  
17 subsistence people.

18  
19 You know, they form their little board  
20 and they call it subsistence, but it's us that's doing  
21 the subsistence. So I'd like to see what are the  
22 numbers. Who are they representing? Themselves, with  
23 their little tape recorders and reports, or are they  
24 representing us, you know?

25  
26 I'd like to see how many Alaska Natives  
27 and subsistence people are on those boards and why  
28 aren't we qualified when we are the ones they're doing  
29 the study on.

30  
31 That's my question about this MOU  
32 that's gone forward.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I can tell you about  
35 the -- you want to make comment? Come on up. Somebody  
36 to answer some of your questions.

37  
38 MR. MCKEE: Again, this is Chris McKee.  
39 I don't want to speak too much about the State Board of  
40 Game, but I can tell you that the Federal Subsistence  
41 Board has two public members. Both of them are  
42 subsistence users and both Alaska Native. The new  
43 Chair of the Federal Subsistence Board, Anthony  
44 Christianson, is also a subsistence user and also an  
45 Alaska Native. So three of the members of the Federal  
46 Subsistence Board are subsistence users and Alaska  
47 Natives. The other members of the Board are the head  
48 of the various Federal land management agencies in the  
49 state.

50

1 I do know that the State Board of Game  
2 also has a variety of members, several of which are  
3 rural subsistence users. There are some that are  
4 nonrural members, but the rural subsistence users are  
5 also represented on the State Board of Game as well.

6  
7 Mr. Chair.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.

10  
11 Marie.

12  
13 MRS. KATCHEAK: Okay. Through the  
14 Chair. You're telling me there was subsistence  
15 members. You have three. Look at the state of Alaska.  
16 How many of us are subsistence people. How did  
17 you pick those three people? Why weren't we all let  
18 known if we wanted somebody from our region on that  
19 Board? How come you didn't ask us?

20  
21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I was going to make a  
22 comment here. The government has their agencies that  
23 are on that panel, the Federal Subsistence Board.  
24 Remember when Tim Towarak was the Chair for the Federal  
25 Subsistence?

26  
27 MRS. KATCHEAK: Yeah.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Charlie Brower  
30 is on there as a public member from up north and then  
31 there's one new lady and I don't know why I can't  
32 remember her name.

33  
34 MR. MCKEE: Rhonda Pitka.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: She's from -- is it  
37 Beaver, Fort Yukon, Beaver, okay, one of the two. So  
38 the Federal Subsistence Board has a makeup that has the  
39 feel that they need to have people on there that are  
40 subsistence users. The State Board of Fish or the  
41 State Board of Game, those are chosen by the current  
42 Administration. If there's a seat open, what they do  
43 is they have names submitted to the governor's office  
44 and then his administration waves the wand and puts  
45 people in those seats.

46  
47 I was actually one of those people at  
48 one point in time for the Board of Fish back in '94.  
49 So it's a long process to get confirmed. Whether you  
50

1 get to the table or not, it's not an easy task for  
2 people to go through.

3  
4 I think Karen has something to add to  
5 that. That was just the best I could give you at this  
6 point.

7  
8 MRS. KATCHEAK: I'm not satisfied.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well, we need to -- if  
11 we're going to do that, then we need to be talking to  
12 the current Administration about letter writing and  
13 that would be the way to do it.

14  
15 What I'm trying to do is I always try  
16 to keep the tone down here because we want to respect  
17 everybody.

18  
19 MRS. KATCHEAK: I'm not disrespecting  
20 anybody.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I didn't -- I  
23 wasn't.....

24  
25 MRS. KATCHEAK: The question is, if you  
26 want to call them Subsistence Board, why aren't they  
27 subsistence people. Get the point. These people are  
28 trying to help us, sure, but let's see -- I mean they  
29 get the information from us and then they pass it on.  
30 We don't need no second man telling us. We can stand  
31 up and say what we need. That's my point.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And I understand your  
34 point, Marie. Thank you for your comment.

35  
36 I'd like to have -- Karen.

37  
38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
39 Just a couple other points about it. For the Alaska  
40 Board of Game and the Alaska Board of Fish you are  
41 correct in that they are nominated to the Governor's  
42 Office who makes those selections, but those selections  
43 must be confirmed by the Legislature before they can  
44 actually sit on either Board. To my knowledge there  
45 are no dedicated seats on the Alaska Board of Game for  
46 any type of user. They are supposed to represent the  
47 various value systems of Alaska and that's left up to  
48 debate for whoever is looking at it.

49  
50

1                   For the Federal Subsistence Board it  
2 actually used to be just the five agencies. The BLM,  
3 the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
4 Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the National  
5 Park Service. Those were the only representatives on  
6 the Board plus a Chair who was a Federal subsistence  
7 user. It is important to have those agencies serve on  
8 that Board because any kind of regulation that comes  
9 through for Federal lands must be in compliance with  
10 those agencies and what their purposes are. So that's  
11 a good thing.

12  
13                   But your concern about not having  
14 enough subsistence users on that Board was actually  
15 heard several years ago and two new public members  
16 representing subsistence were added to the Federal  
17 Subsistence Board.

18  
19                   The other point is we have 10 Regional  
20 Advisory Councils throughout the state, including this  
21 one here, and the Board gives very high deference to  
22 the opinions and the positions of these Councils. It  
23 is very rare that the Board will vote against what the  
24 Councils have asked for. We actually collect data on  
25 that.

26  
27                   In essence, these Councils are driving  
28 our Federal Subsistence Board and their decisions. The  
29 Councils themselves are set up so that it's largely  
30 subsistence users, but several years ago they changed  
31 it to allow for sport hunting interest to be put on the  
32 Council. So now up to three members from the sport  
33 hunting interest can be on the Council. It doesn't  
34 have to be three. It doesn't have to be any, but up to  
35 three can be.

36  
37                   So that's how the system is set up  
38 right now. So really the power I think of this program  
39 is in the Regional Advisory Councils.

40  
41                   Thank you.

42  
43                   CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen. And  
44 I can attest to that by the idea that the Northwest and  
45 the Arctic Slope have dealt with caribou decline and  
46 from the Regional RACs to the Federal Board to saying,  
47 no, we're not going to allow hunting of caribou by non-  
48 qualified residents up there. They did listen to the  
49 RACs. Seward Peninsula RAC supports it because we use  
50



1 the same resource of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

2  
3 So there is a process. I know it can  
4 be frustrating. I've been part of this stuff since the  
5 early '90s and it can get to you once in a while. I  
6 didn't mean to sound like I was being disrespectful to  
7 you, Marie. I was just pointing out that we're just  
8 trying to have a good dialogue here and I didn't want  
9 anybody to walk away thinking they had gotten hit over  
10 the head.

11  
12 That's why I was talking to Bill and  
13 mentioned to him we try to make sure it's fair and open  
14 for everybody. These folks that are on these staffs,  
15 they're just a little bit -- we're here and they're  
16 working for their staff for their respective  
17 departments.

18  
19 Anyway, is there anything else you'd  
20 like to bring to us?

21  
22 MRS. KATCHEAK: No. Thank you. But  
23 I'm still not satisfied. I'm never going to be  
24 satisfied because I'm a subsistence person. When I  
25 introduce myself, I'm a subsistence person. I don't  
26 say I'm anything else.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You're just like me.  
29 We write the same thing down when we put our names on  
30 there.

31  
32 MRS. KATCHEAK: It will always be. It  
33 will never change as long as I'm alive.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Subsistence. Never  
36 changes. Thank you very much for your comments and  
37 your interest to be here.

38  
39 So that brings us to -- we already  
40 asked for comments on the phone. Do we have  
41 Interagency Staff Committee.

42  
43 (No comments)

44  
45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think we're down to  
46 item number 12, future meeting dates. What have we got  
47 there, Karen, for timeframes? If we get this all out  
48 of the way, then tomorrow we can come in here and deal  
49 with those other two issues.

50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Just give me on  
2 moment.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You're on the clock  
5 now.

6  
7 (Laughter)

8  
9 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
10 Members of the Council. At the last meeting you had in  
11 Nome last fall the Council elected to meet in Nome  
12 October 24th and 25th in 2017. They also did request  
13 to have a joint meeting in Kotzebue with the Northwest  
14 Council and that is still on the table, but right now  
15 we're waiting to get a budget because as of May 1st, I  
16 believe, we will not have a budget from Congress. So  
17 we're waiting to hear about that budget and what  
18 impacts it may have on our program and where we may be  
19 able to hold some of the meetings.

20  
21 So we'll certainly get back to the  
22 Council on whether or not that's approved. If it's not  
23 approved to meet jointly with the Council, you'll be  
24 meeting in Nome in the fall October 24th and 25th  
25 unless you would like to change that at this meeting.

26  
27 I'll go ahead after you discuss that  
28 and talk about the winter meeting of 2018.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So anyway, like she  
31 enlightened us, it's October 24th and 25th. Is there  
32 anybody at the table who might have a conflict or  
33 anything.

34  
35 Brandon.

36  
37 MR. AHMASUK: No.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Leland.

40  
41 MR. OYOUMICK: No.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: How about you, Elmer?  
44 Do you have any kind of conflict with those dates?

45  
46 MR. SEETOT: Not that I know of.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: How about you,  
49 Charles?

50

1 MR. SACCHEUS: No.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ted.

4  
5 MR. KATCHEAK: No.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ron online.

8  
9 MR. KIRK: No, no comments, Mr. Chair.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is Fred online?

12  
13 (No response)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. I think those  
16 dates stand there. Whether or not we get the joint  
17 meeting with Northwest in Kotzebue is up for grabs at  
18 this point.

19  
20 I guess this brings us to looking in  
21 our crystal ball and selecting our winter 2018 meeting  
22 date and location. Can we have it in Hawaii?

23  
24 (Laughter)

25  
26 MR. ENINGOWUK: Mr. Chair. This is  
27 Fred. I have no conflict on that meeting date. I was  
28 fumbling with my mute button here.

29  
30 (Laughter)

31  
32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thanks, Fred.  
33 Everybody's been there.

34  
35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Just for the record,  
36 Mr. Chair, Members of the Council, we did try to make  
37 sure it wasn't scheduled to be at conflict with the  
38 AFN, which is scheduled for the week before.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Do we have  
41 a timeframe that you would have penciled in there,  
42 Karen, for the winter meeting 2018.

43  
44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
45 The timeframe for the winter meeting cycle in 2018  
46 starts February 5th and runs through March 16th. The  
47 only week that looks like you wouldn't be able to hold  
48 the meeting would be the week of February 19th because  
49 we currently already have two meetings scheduled that

50

1 week.

2

3

Thank you.

4

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CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks. Anybody got any suggestions. We seem to be around March every year if I recall.

Brandon, do you got any -- I know you're part of the Kawerak organization.

MR. AHMASUK: Mr. Chair. I'd just maybe suggest staying away from that second, third week of March just because Iditarod is happening.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: We're just going to rent a bunch of arctic tents out here and we're going to have woodstoves in them and we're going to camp out and be here for the Iditarod.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Point well taken. Anybody.

MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair. Ron Kirk. Yeah, as you can tell, I wanted to be there to attend this meeting in person, but like I told you yesterday I'm stuck here because of our annual potlatch which takes place in the first two weeks of March. The first week we went down to Kotlik last weekend for their cultural dance. We're always invited. This weekend we're inviting Kotlik to come here. Next year it's going to be reversed. The first weekend we're going to invite Kotlik to come here. The second weekend they're going to invite us to go down there. That's why I wouldn't be able to travel to attend the meetings again. That's my problem. That's my concern, Mr. Chair.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. Understanding the timeframe, would you be able to do what you're doing today by attending from wherever you're at on the telephone if it was necessary?

MR. KIRK: That's affirmative, Mr. Chair. If it's necessary, I can do it.

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Anybody  
2 else have any conflicts. Today is the 6th, so we've  
3 gone to the first week in the month to avoid Iditarod.

4  
5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. It will be  
6 a little different next year. It looks like the week  
7 we're meeting right now is -- well, it would be a few  
8 days before Iditarod. So we could still meet maybe  
9 March 5th and 6th. The week of February 26th is open,  
10 which ends on March 3rd or you could go really early  
11 and the week of February 5th. It's pretty open right  
12 now.

13  
14 Thank you.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks. I'm in some  
17 other organizations, so I can't even tell you where I'm  
18 at. I'm just kind of wanting to get the feel from the  
19 other Council Members here if they have any  
20 suggestions.

21  
22 Leland.

23  
24 MR. OYOUMICK: Any time is good. I'm  
25 retired and can't work much, but I can do something  
26 like this.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Well, I'd  
29 say 5th and 6th right now. How long do we have if we  
30 decided we were going to change something? We don't  
31 have. This is it, right? I just want to lay that out  
32 there.

33  
34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
35 You would be welcome to change that at the fall 2017  
36 meeting if there was a conflict because at that time  
37 you would confirm your meeting dates for winter 2018.

38  
39 Thanks.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you for  
42 that, Karen. I think we could just put 5 and 6 down  
43 and see if it holds true by the time we have our next  
44 meeting to confirm the date. Sounds good to me. I'm  
45 the one that said it.

46  
47 (Laughter)

48  
49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So now that we have  
50

1 those future dates.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Pardon me, Mr. Chair.  
4 The location of the meeting. Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I don't have a problem  
7 with it being in the Mini Convention Center if nobody  
8 else does.

9

10 MS. DEATHERAGE: You mean in Nome?

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: In Nome, yeah. Our  
13 crystal ball doesn't tell us we can go anywhere else.

14

15 MS. DEATHERAGE: You could ask for it.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We could ask for it,  
18 but we could do it at the next meeting, couldn't we?

19

20 MS. DEATHERAGE: (Nods affirmatively)

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So the other thing I  
23 wanted to bring up is at 5:30 to 7:30 is that public  
24 hearing on 22A moose. Am I getting that straight?  
25 Those are my notes. People are all  
26 invited to be here, right? Karen says so. So I would  
27 encourage Council Members to be here because we are  
28 going to be talking about this tomorrow.

29

30 Maybe I'll see you here or maybe I  
31 won't. 5:30 to 7:30. Do you want to go around the  
32 table for closing comments for today. Ted.

33

34 MR. KATCHEAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair,  
35 and the people that are here to hear us out. I have  
36 been very adamant or enthusiastic about being on the  
37 Council. It wasn't because I feel related to this  
38 organization or identify with this organization. I'm a  
39 subsistence hunter/fisher. I always like to see  
40 everyone that's trying to help us and I thank the  
41 Advisory Council that they believe in this  
42 organization.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ted.  
47 Charles.

48

49 MR. SACCHEUS: No comment.

50

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Elmer.

2  
3 MR. SEETOT: No comment.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: No comment. Leland.

6  
7 MR. OYOUNICK: Thank you for the  
8 explanations. Very helpful.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Brandon.

11  
12 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
13 It's my first meeting. I hope I did everybody justice.  
14 I hope I represented well.

15  
16 Thanks.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You asked some great  
19 questions, Brandon. You did good.

20  
21 This body here serves as a volunteer  
22 group. It's not a paid vacation. So I really  
23 appreciate everybody that's here even though you're not  
24 here and you're on the phone, you're still here. Fred  
25 and Ron, appreciate your time.

26  
27 Having said that I think we'll call for  
28 a recess until tomorrow morning at what? We're here at  
29 9:00 o'clock in the morning this time, not 10:00.

30  
31 MR. ENINGOWUK: Mr. Chair. This is  
32 Fred.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, Fred. Go ahead.  
35 I'm sorry. Just a quick comment. As you know, I  
36 wasn't able to attend the meeting and I'll be catching  
37 the early morning flight to Nome tomorrow and I'll be  
38 able to attend providing we're able to make it over  
39 there. Are we meeting at the Mini Convention or where?

40  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We're at the Mini at  
43 9:00 in the morning.

44  
45 MR. ENINGOWUK: Okay. If I'm able to  
46 make it, I'll be down in person tomorrow.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you.

49  
50

1 Ron.

2

3 MR. KIRK: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I thought  
4 Bering Air was coming this evening or this morning to  
5 catch that flight to be there in person, but they never  
6 showed. So I can teleconference here again if I need  
7 to tomorrow.

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right. I  
10 appreciate your time on the phone today. I know how  
11 hard it is to sit there on the phone. I've done plenty  
12 of those.

13

14 MR. KIRK: Yeah, it's time consuming.  
15 I was getting phone calls from the village. I had to  
16 meet some guys that were bringing some sheefish over  
17 and I tried to coordinate that at the same time.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Multitasking. Thank  
20 you.

21

22 Karen.

23

24 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
25 I received an email from Tom Gray today and he'll be  
26 flying in this evening, so he will be at the meeting  
27 tomorrow here.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Without  
32 further adieu I guess it's time for a recess.

33

34 (Off record)

35

36 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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## C E R T I F I C A T E

1  
2  
3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
4 )ss.  
5 STATE OF ALASKA )  
6

7 I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the  
8 state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court  
9 Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

10  
11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered \_\_\_\_ through  
12 \_\_\_\_ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the  
13 SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY  
14 COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically on the  
15 6th day of March at Nome, Alaska;

16  
17 THAT the transcript is a true and  
18 correct transcript requested to be transcribed and  
19 thereafter transcribed by under my direction and  
20 reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and  
21 ability;

22  
23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or  
24 party interested in any way in this action.  
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26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 17th  
27 day of March 2017.  
28  
29

30  
31 \_\_\_\_\_  
32 Salena A. Hile  
33 Notary Public, State of Alaska  
34 My Commission Expires: 09/16/18  
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